

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2003)**

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2003-2004)

FORTY-FOURTH REPORT



Presented to Lok Sabha on 25.04.2002

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 25.04.2002

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

April, 2003/Vaisakha, 1925 (Saka)

CONTENTS

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

PREFACE

PART - I

CHAPTER I Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of Ministry of Water Resources

PART - II

CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2003)

LOK SABHA

Shri S.S. Palanimanickam - Chairman

2. Shri Daud Ahmad
3. Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel
4. Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura
5. Shri Ambati Brahmaniah
6. Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhari
7. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
8. Shri Adhir Chowdhary
9. Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot
10. Shri Raghunath Jha
11. Shri Abul Hasnat Khan
12. Shri M. Master Mathan
13. Shri Tarachand Shivaji Patel
14. Shri Bhaskar Rao Patil
15. Shri Jaisingrao Gaikwad Patil
16. Smt. Rama Pilot
17. Ms. Prabha Rau
18. Shri N.R.K. Reddy
19. Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh
20. Shri Laxman Singh
21. Shri Ramjiwan Singh
22. Shri Rampal Singh
23. Shri Tejveer Singh
24. Shri Punjaji Sadaji Thakor
25. Shri Tarlochan Singh Tur
26. Shri Chintaman Wanaga
27. Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav
28. Shri Mahboob Zahedi
- *29. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
30. Vacant

RAJYA SABHA

31. Dr. A.R. Kidwai
32. Shri Oscar Fernandes
33. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
34. Prof. R.B. S. Varma
35. Dr. A.K. Patel
36. Shri Sudarshan Akarapu
37. Dr. Swami Sakshi Ji Maharaj
38. Shri R. Kamaraj
39. Prof. M. Sankaralingam
40. Shri Gandhi Azad

41. Shri Datta Meghe
42. Shri R.S. Gavai
43. Shri Rao Man Singh
44. Shri Sukhbir Singh
45. Shri H.K. Javare Gowda

* Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava has been nominated to this committee w.e.f. 7.4.2003.

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri P.D.T. Achary | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri S.K. Sharma | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri Raj Shekhar Sharma | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Smt. Anita Jain | - | Under Secretary |
| 5. | Shri Ramesh Lal | - | Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture having been authorised by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf, present this Forty-Fourth Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2003-2004.

2. The Standing Committee on Agriculture was constituted on 1st January, 2003. One of the functions of the Standing Committee as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha is to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make a report on the same to the Houses. The report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, on 8th April, 2003. The Committee wish to express their thanks to officers of the Ministry of Water Resources for placing before them, the material and information which they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry for the year 2003-2004 and for giving evidence before the Committee.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 22nd April, 2003.

NEW DELHI;
10 April, 2003
20 Chaitra, 1925 (Saka)

S.S. PALANIMANICKAM
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture

PART - I

CHAPTER I

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2003-2004) OF MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

AN INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Role & Functions

1.1 'Water' being a State subject, the role of the Central Ministry of Water Resources has been advisory to the State Governments for sustained development of water resources in the country. The overall role and responsibility of the Union Ministry of Water Resources is to lay down policy guidelines and programmes for the development and regulation of the nation's water resources, both surface and ground, in a holistic manner.

1.2 Since all the irrigation schemes, programmes and projects are planned, formulated and executed by the State Governments, the major share of funds required are allocated in their State Plans itself. The role of the Central Government being essentially of a catalytic nature, does not offer much in terms of finance to the irrigation schemes, programmes and projects but techno-appraisal of these schemes.

1.3 The demand of Ministry of Water Resources is contained in Demand No. 102 of Central Budget. A Budgetary summary of Ministry of Water Resources is given below :

Demand No. 102

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2001-2002(Actuals)	443.48	220.38	663.86
2002-2003(BE)	550.00	226.75	776.75
2002-2003(RE)	450.00	217.00	667.00
2003-2004(BE)	554.00	214.79	768.79

1.4 The Budget Estimates (2003-2004) is Rs. 768.79 crore comprising Plan allocation of Rs. 554.00 crore and non-plan allocation of Rs. 214.79 crore, while the budgetary allocation in (2002-2003) was Rs. 776.75 crore comprising Plan allocation of Rs. 550.00 crore and non-plan allocation of Rs. 226.75 crore.

1.5 The Plan allocation during the year 2002-2003 was earmarked at Rs.550.00 crore, however, at the Revised Estimates stage it was reduced to Rs.450.00 crore. The Committee, when asked about the reasons for scaling down the BE by Rs. 100.00 crore at the Revised Estimates stage 2002-2003. The Ministry in their reply stated:-

“As the year 2002-03 happened to be the first year of Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry was required to reformulate all the schemes of the Ministry and its organisations for fresh approval by the competent authority. In case of a number of schemes, the Ministry proposed merger of activities and/or, modification in scope in view of the recommendations of the Planning Commission on account of Zero Budget Based considerations. Processing and their subsequent clearance by the Planning Commission of such schemes including the proposed new schemes was time-consuming. As a result, only a few schemes could be approved during the first six months of the year 2002-03, i.e. till the end of September 2002. In the absence of administrative approval of the competent authority for most of the schemes, the plan expenditure performance upto September 2002 was extremely poor. In addition to slow progress of plan expenditure of the Ministry upto September, 2002, for the reasons explained above, leading to reduced requirement of funds during the remaining period of the year 2002-03, other specific reasons for reducing the RE are given in the following Table for some major schemes:

Sl.No	Name of Scheme	BE 2003-04	RE 2002-03	Reasons for Reduction
1.	CAD & WM	201.00	151.74	Old funding norms are to be followed in absence of approval for the new restructured scheme.
2.	Pagladiya Project	45.00	12.00	As the funds made available in the last year remained unspent and are being utilised in the current year, the requirement is reduced
3.	Ground Water Survey, exploration and investigation	60.00	51.63	Provision kept for procurement of rigs under Japan Aid Programme and that for maintaining inventory for exploration work has been

				slashed, as the procurement proposals did not materialise.
4.	Artificial recharge of Ground water	26.36	15.00	As the main Centrally Sponsored Scheme would take time to be cleared, the provision was required only for the spill-over work of the pilot studies.

”

1.6 The Committee enquired about the details of sectors/schemes which have been adversely affected due to reduced allocation. In their reply, the Ministry stated as under :

“Sector-wise break-up of the Plan allocation in BE and RE of 2002-03 is as under:-

(Rs in crore)

S.No	Sectors	2002-03		Difference (BE-RE)
		BE	RE	
1.	Major & Medium Irrigation	60.80	52.91	7.89
2.	Minor Irrigation	109.16	97.31	11.85
3.	Command Area Development	202.00	153.05	48.95
4.	Flood Control	151.02	122.40	28.62
5.	Secretariat & Economic services	2.02	1.33	0.69
6.	Transport Sector (FBP)	25.00	23.00	2.00
	Grand Total	550.00	450.00	100.00

From the above Table it is evident that the reduction in allocation at the RE stage will mainly affect the CAD Programme and the Flood Sector Schemes of the Ministry. CAD Programme will be affected adversely as the programme will take longer time to get completed.”

1.7 When asked about the details of demands placed by the Ministry to the Planning Commission and demands accepted by the Planning Commission for year 2003-04, sector-wise, the Ministry furnished the details as follows :-

“Sector wise break-up of outlay demanded by the Ministry and that as accepted by the Planning Commission/ Ministry of Finance for the year 2003-04 for both Plan & Non Plan Outlay is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No	Sectors	Plan Outlay (2003-04)		Non Plan Outlay (2003-04)	
		Outlay Demanded	Outlay accepted	Outlay Demanded	Outlay accepted
1.	Major & Medium Irrigation	79.85	74.58	301.59*	101.66
2.	Minor Irrigation	111.38	95.22	46.55	46.11
3.	command Area Development	210.00	202.00	-	-
4.	Flood Control	209.52	155.70	32.68	32.36
5.	Secretariat & Economic services	2.25	1.50	11.36	11.68
6.	Transport Sector (FBP)	25.00	25.00	21.59	22.98
	Grand Total	638.00	554.00	413.77	214.79

* 200 crore for SYL + 13 cr. additional for NPCC.

It may be noted that the non-plan outlay of the Ministry is not sent to the Planning Commission for approval. The Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Ministry finalises the non-plan outlay on the basis of the proposal of the Ministry sent to it.”

1.8 The (Plan) Budget Estimates for the Ministry for the year 2002-2003 was Rs.550.00 crore, which has been marginally increased to Rs.554.00 crore in budgetary estimates for 2003-2004. The Committee enquired as to whether this allocation was sufficient enough to fulfil the targets under the various on going schemes/projects of the Ministry. In their reply, the Ministry stated:

“Given the Five Year Plan size of Rs.3600 crore approved for the Tenth Plan of the Ministry, the average annual Plan outlay should be of the order of Rs.720 crore per year during the Tenth Plan period. However, the Planning Commission stipulated that the Ministry may consider proposing an outlay for the year 2003-04, which is not more than 10% of the approved outlay for the year 2002-03. According to this norm, the Ministry could expect to get

an outlay of Rs. 605 crore against Rs.638 crore actually proposed. The reduced outlay of Rs.554 crore is likely to hinder the progress envisaged during the year 2003-04 under various schemes.”

1.9 Asked about the detailed Budget proposal made by the Ministry to the Planning Commission and actual allocation made for the Ministry for the Tenth Plan for various sectors, the Ministry furnished the following information:

“The Ministry of Water Resources prepared the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) proposals for the Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry of Water Resources and its organisations for an overall outlay of Rs. 6651.41 crore. However, the Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs. 3600.00 crore for the Tenth Five Year Plan of the Ministry. The Sector-wise break-up of the outlay of the Ministry for the Tenth Five Year Plan as proposed by the Ministry and that as approved by the Planning Commission is as under:

(Rs in crore)

S.No	Sectors	Proposed by Ministry	Approved by the Planning Commission
1.	Major & Medium Irrigation	436.21	342.43
2.	Minor Irrigation	576.06	533.80
3.	Command Area Development	3505.00	1406.80
4.	Flood Control	1977.92	1158.00
5.	Secretariat & Economic services	6.22	8.97
6.	Transport Sector (FBP)	150.00	150.00
	Grand Total	6651.41	3600.00

1.10 The Committee wanted to know as to whether there would be an adverse impact on any of the schemes due to curtailment of X Plan proposed outlay in the actual sanctioned outlay for the Ministry. The Ministry in their reply stated:

“The curtailment in the Tenth Plan Outlay will have an adverse impact of varying degrees on several schemes. The reduction has mainly affected the allocation for CAD and Flood Control Sectors, as is evident from above Table. It has been envisaged that the

Command Area Development Programme (CADP) would be restructured and reoriented to make it more effective and to integrate Water Management issues with the programme. The restructured programme is proposed to take care of system deficiencies upstream of the outlet and to make the stakeholders responsible for operation & upkeep of the systems. Under the restructured CADWM programme, a sum of Rs 3505 crore was kept to augment the programme and to bring in new components such as (i) correction of system deficiencies up to the distributaries of 150 cusec capacity; (ii) funds for motivational activities for Water Users Associations and; (iii) renovation of Minor Irrigation tanks under the commands of CAD projects. The reduced outlay for the CAD Sector from Rs 3505.00 crore (proposed) to Rs. 1406.80 crore (approved) is likely to affect the pace of progress of the said activities during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. In case of the Flood Control Sector, the reduced allocations would mainly affect the activities envisaged under the Centrally Sponsored Critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States, for which the allocation was required to be reduced from Rs.850 crore (proposed) to Rs.192 crore (approved).”

1.11 In the Ninth Plan, as many as 22 schemes costing Rs.35 crore were not approved by the Planning Commission, despite the best efforts of the Ministry. When asked about the details scheme-wise as to what were the reservations of the Planning Commission for not-approving the schemes, the Ministry in their reply stated :

“The number of Plan schemes of the Ministry was already too large. The Planning Commission was, therefore, not in favour of increasing the number of schemes by introducing too many new schemes and suggested amalgamation of schemes with existing schemes, wherever possible. Specific reasons of non-approval of the 22 schemes and their status is given below:

S.No	Name of the schemes	Reasons for non approval/dropping of the schemes	Status
1.	Setting up of basin wise environmental management unit	The indicated BE was provided in the year 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan. The scheme was dropped, as the Planning Commission was not in favour of creation of posts for such a unit in Central Water Commission. Since a Central, State and Project level monitoring mechanism on the environmental issues was already in vogue and CWC had set up Environmental Monitoring Organisation for coordinating the Central level monitoring, the need for the scheme was difficult to justify and hence the scheme was closed after 1997-98.	Dropped
2.	Technology transfer design wing	The indicated BE was a token provision made in the year 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan. As the activities proposed to be carried out were possible under other ongoing schemes of CWC, the scheme was closed after 1997-98.	Merged with existing schemes
3.	Re-assessment of ultimate irrigation potential	The indicated BE was corresponding to provisions made upto the year 1999-2000. The scheme was weeded out thereafter by the Ministry in view of Planning Commission's reservations about the need for a separate new scheme when the proposed activity is not of continuing requirement and could be carried out through required studies by and when necessary.	Dropped. Activity taken up through existing set up.
4.	Strengthening and modernization of hydrological observation network in India	The indicated BE was made in the year 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan. The scheme was dropped and the proposed activities were merged under the ongoing scheme for Establishment & modernisation of Flood forecasting & H.O. network in India.	Merged with existing scheme
5.	Irrigation research and management improvement	The indicated BE was made in the year 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan. The scheme was dropped thereafter as Planning Commission had reservation about the need of	Dropped. Activity taken up through existing set up.

S.No	Name of the schemes	Reasons for non approval/dropping of the schemes	Status
	cell	such a cell in CWC when a separate R&D Directorate was already in place.	
6.	Development of human resources and professional expertise	The indicated BE was corresponding to the year 2000-01. The scheme was dropped as Planning Commission indicated that the proposed activities are broadly non-plan activities and accordingly the scheme is not eligible for Plan.	Dropped
7.	Land & building for CWC under Major & Medium Irrigation	The indicated provision was for the year upto 2000-01 during the Ninth Plan and was meant for the capital expenses under the scheme "Modernisation & upgradation of library and information bureau". The scheme was weeded out with effect from 2000-01 onwards following the recommendations of the task force of the Ministry for the Zero Based Budgeting exercise on the Ninth Plan Schemes of the Ministry. The upgradation component of the scheme has been merged with the scheme for "Upgradation & modernisation of computerisation/information system of CWC" in the Tenth Plan and the corresponding capital section under the scheme for "Construction of official & residential buildings of CWC".	Merged with existing scheme
8	Data communication facilities at CWPRS	The indicated BE was token provision made in year 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan. As per suggestion of the Planning.	Merged with existing scheme
9.	National centre for information on water and power	Commission the schemes were merged later on with CWPRS's new scheme in the Ninth Plan for IT development.	
10.	Modernisation of research facilities at CWPRS	The indicated BE was token provision made up to the year 1998-99. As per suggestion of the Planning Commission the components of the scheme were merged with the new schemes of CWPRS in the Ninth Plan for Remote sensing applications, coastal and off-shore data collection capabilities & modernisation of Earth Science Laboratory.	Merged with existing scheme

S.No	Name of the schemes	Reasons for non approval/dropping of the schemes	Status
11.	Participatory irrigation scheme for rehabilitation & management of minor irrigation projects.	The indicated BE are corresponding to the token provision made upto the year 2001-02. As per the suggestion of Planning Commission, the proposed activities under the schemes have been included under the restructured CAD programme to be introduced in the Tenth Plan. Hence the schemes have been closed.	Merged into new scheme of X Plan
12.	Restoration of old tanks		
13.	Isotopic studies	The indicated BE for these schemes were upto the year 2000-01. As per recommendations of the Task Force of the Ministry for Zero Based Budgeting exercise these schemes were discontinued after 2000-01 on the grounds that the proposed activities may be considered for inclusion under the on-going scheme of CGWB for survey, exploration and investigation of ground water.	Merged with existing scheme
14.	Scientific source finding and water management		
15.	Assistance to states for ground water resources	The indicated BE for the scheme was the provision made for the year 1997-98. The scheme was proposed as a centrally sponsored scheme for artificial recharge of ground water. The Planning Commission was of the view that the scheme can be taken up only if the performance results of the prior studies under the ongoing central sector scheme for study of ground water recharge are positive and encouraging. Since the scheme for the pilot studies was continuing in the Ninth Plan, the centrally sponsored scheme was dropped from the Ninth Plan and deferred to the Tenth Plan to replace the central sector scheme for pilot studies after its completion.	Merged into new scheme of X Plan
16.	Investigation & development of ground water resources in eastern states	The indicated BE was for the years upto 1999-2000. The scheme was proposed as a centrally sponsored scheme. As the Ministry of Agriculture already introduced a similar scheme, the Planning Commission did not agree for launching a separate CSS by the Ministry.	Dropped
17.	Pancheshwar Dam Stage II	The indicated BE for the schemes were for the year 1997-98 , the first year of the Ninth	Merged with existing

S.No	Name of the schemes	Reasons for non approval/dropping of the schemes	Status
18	Pancheshwar multi-purpose project in India- Nepal border	the year 1997-98 , the first year of the Ninth Plan. These schemes were thereafter combined with the ongoing scheme of the CWC for investigation of Teesta Project and Pancheshwar Multipurpose project.	existing scheme
19	Teesta Project stage-II	Accordingly the three schemes were weeded out.	
20	Central assistance to specific flood control schemes of the North-East	The indicated BE was made in the year 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan. The scheme was thereafter merged with the proposed centrally sponsored scheme for Flood Control in Brahmaputra Valley & hence was weeded out as a separate scheme.	Merged into new scheme of X Plan
21.	Critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga basin states	The indicated BE in the Ninth Plan was meant for launching a new centrally sponsored scheme. As per suggestion of the Planning Commission the scheme was required to be reformulated on the basis of proposals of the concerned State Governments. Due to delay in receipt of suitable proposals from the State Governments, the scheme could not be cleared during the Ninth Plan. The scheme has been included in the Tenth Plan.	Merged into new scheme of X Plan
22.	Flood proofing schemes-other than North Bihar	The indicated BE during the Ninth Plan was for the year upto 2000-01. Since a flood proofing programme for the North Bihar was already continuing and there are other centrally sponsored Rural Development schemes in operation in the States under which such works can be taken up, Planning Commission was not in favour of such a scheme for all other States, where flood problem is very little or not in existence. However, the ongoing scheme for flood proofing in North Bihar has been renamed as "Flood proofing programme" in the Tenth Plan for covering all flood prone States other than North Bihar.	Merged into new scheme of X Plan

Tenth Five Year Plan of the Ministry

1.12 The following are the Broad strategies of Tenth Five Year Plan of the Ministry :

- The Tenth Plan must aim at a major revival of public/private investment in irrigation capacity and water management.
- The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme is a potentially important instrument for providing resources to state governments in support of ongoing irrigation schemes.
- Allocations under this programme need to be massively increased.
- Greater attention will have to be paid to rain water harvesting and increasing the irrigation potential through scientific watershed development.
- There is considerable scope to improve the efficiency of our existing irrigation infrastructure through better and more participative management practices.
- Stimulating ground water development in eastern region is crucial to kick-start the Green Revolution in this region, as only 1/5th of ground water resources is being utilized.

1.13 Underlying the broad strategies are the following specific thrust areas of action for water resources development:

Thrust areas of action

1. The X Plan must aim at quick completion of ongoing projects and proper maintenance of created infrastructure.
2. Pricing structure for water should ensure that revenues earned by the State Governments cover the operation and maintenance (O&M) cost of irrigation and water supply systems.
3. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) involving Water Users Associations (WUAs) should be encouraged in the States towards O&M and collection of water charges.
4. Besides Dams, other cost effective options like rejuvenation of traditional water harvesting structures, ground water development, development/restoration of surface minor irrigation system, rainwater harvesting in urban areas and watershed development should be taken up simultaneously.
5. Utilization of created irrigation potential to the maximum extent by restructuring CAD programme involving stakeholders and cover main and intermediate drainage, water use efficiency promotion and system management.

6. Benchmarking studies to identify the best practices and the weak links in the system with the objective of improving performances.
7. Arresting ground water depletion.
8. Drainage and arresting water-logging and improvement of water use efficiency.
9. Extension of flood management activity and
10. Research & Development.

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR NORTH EASTERN STATES

1.14 Out of total B.E. 2003-04 for the Ministry of Rs 554.00 crore a provision of Rs 85.00 crore has been kept under the schemes for the benefit of North-Eastern States. Provision for North-Eastern States works out to 15.3% of the sanctioned budget for the Ministry.

1.15 Further, the detailed Scheme/Project-wise budget proposal made by the Ministry and actual budget sanctioned by the Planning Commission for North-Eastern States during the year 2003-2004 is as given below:-

(Rs.in crore)

Name of the Scheme	Provision proposed by the Ministry	Provision agreed by Planning Commission
Brahmaputra Board	21.00	20.00
Flood Control in Brahmaputra & Barak Valley	20.00	10.00
Pagladia Project	50.00	45.00
Harrange Drainage Scheme	15.00	5.00
New Schemes for Majuli Island in Assam, Dibang Project etc.	10.00	5.00

1.16 When asked about the details of schemes/project-wise financial allocation, expenditure, and shortfall in utilization of funds along with its reasons during the first financial year of Tenth Plan 2002-2003, the Ministry furnished the details as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Sl.	Name of	B.E.	R.E.	Funds	Exp.	Shortfall	Remarks
------------	----------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	-------------	------------------	----------------

No.	Scheme			released	Upto Jan 2003		
1.	Pagladiya Dam Project	45.00	12.50	Nil	2.55 *	9.95	Delay in land acquisition, security problem, R&R settlements etc are the main reasons for shortfall, Tender documents for main dam have been received by Brahmaputra Board from WAPCOS and are under examination. Action has also been initiated for construction of 268 residential houses Project Affected Families (PAF). Work is likely to pickup next year.
2.	Harrange Drainage Development Scheme	5.00	5.00	3.50	2.49	Likely to be released during March 2003	
3.	Grant in aid to Brahmaputra Board	20.00	20.00	12.00	12.39	Likely to be released during March 2003	
4.	Flood Control works in Brahmaputra Valley	10.00	7.50	Nil	Nil	Nil	The scheme is under formulation and the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance for the transfer of BE of Rs.10 crore to the Planning Commission. For release as ACA to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
5.	New Schemes of Majuli Island in Assam, Dihang Project etc.	0.50	0.50	Nil	Nil	Nil	One component of the scheme "Avulsion of Brahmaputra River at Dholla Hatighuli, Assam" at an estimated cost of Rs.10.47 crore is under execution by Brahmaputra Board for which an amount of Rs.5 crore has been earmarked to be released temporarily from the funds available with Brahmaputra Board under the Head Pagladiya Dam Project.

* Expenditure met from the spillover fund available with the Brahmaputra Board for Pagladiya Dam Project.

1.17 The (Plan) Budget Estimates for Pagladiya dam Project during the year 2002-2003 was fixed at Rs.45.00 crore. However, it was reduced to Rs.12.50 crore at the Revised Estimates

stage. When asked about the reasons for reducing 72.22% allocation at the Revised Estimates stage 2002-2003, the Ministry stated :

“Delay in land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) settlements and security related issues were the reasons for reducing allocation at the revised estimate stage for 2002-2003. The Government of Assam has allotted 956 ha of land in 33 locations of Nalbari District which is about one third of the total land requirement. An important input for implementation of R&R programme is Zirat Survey which is to be taken up by the District Administration after 30 (Thirty) days from the date of issue of Land Acquisition (LA) Notification under Section 4 (1) of LA Act which have been issued and published in the Assam Gazette on 21.01.2003 and 30.01.2003. The payment of compensation will be taken up once the Zirat Survey is complete.

The tenders for construction of 268 residential houses for the Project Affected Families have also been invited. The estimate prepared on the basis of recommendations of R&R committee exceeded the already approved amount and necessary action for obtaining the approval of competent authority is being taken up in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Tender documents for the main dam have also been received by Brahmaputra Board from WAPCOS and are under examination. Work is likely to pick up next year.”

1.18 It has been informed that the Ministry has requested to Brahmaputra Board to formulate the scheme Flood Control in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley after obtaining the requisite information from the concerned State Governments. When enquired as to whether the Board has since received requisite information, the Ministry in their reply furnished the latest information as under:

“As already mentioned, the Brahmaputra Board being the nodal agency was requested to formulate the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for taking up critical flood control/anti erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak valley during the 10th Five Year Plan.

The North-Eastern States including Sikkim and West Bengal (for the areas of North Bengal falling within Brahmaputra basin) were requested by the Brahmaputra Board to send the list of prioritised schemes for formulation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for taking up critical flood control/anti erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley. There was delay in submission of the prioritised schemes by various North-Eastern States. However, only the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Nagaland have submitted the details of

prioritised schemes whereas the States of Sikkim, Manipur and Mizoram have still indicated the lump sum provisions. Meghalaya and West Bengal have not responded even now. However, in order that the formulation of the scheme is not delayed further, action has been initiated to prepare the scheme based on the information so far received from various State Governments.”

1.19 In regard to measures taken to utilize 100% funds allocated under each scheme/project of North Eastern States during 2003-2004, the Ministry stated:

“ EFC memos for two unapproved schemes Pagladia Project and Flood Control in Brahmaputra Valley are under formulation and it is felt there will be no problem during financial year 2003-2004 in respect of utilization of allocated funds under the scheme in the North-Eastern States.”

MAJOR AND MEDIUM IRRIGATION

1.20 All the major and medium irrigation projects are planned, formulated and executed by the concerned States by providing required funds out of their State Plans. The major role of the Central Ministry of Water Resources under the major and medium irrigation is to provide technical guidance and scrutiny of major and medium projects by its specialised organisations like Central Water Commission, Central Water and Power Research Station, Central Soil Materials Research Station and National Institute of Hydrology. The general infrastructural and research support to sectoral development at the State level is provided by the Central Water Commission.

1.21 There are 159 major projects in different States, which are continuing in Tenth Five Year Plan in addition to 242 medium project.

1.22 The total budgetary allocations under Major and Medium Irrigation is given below:

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	BE 2002-2003		RE 2002-2003		BE 2003-2004	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-P Non-Plan	Plan	Non-P Non-Plan
Major and Medium Irrigation	59.80	99.60	52.91	80.99	74.58	87.66

Irrigation						
------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

1.23 The (Plan) Budget Estimates for Major and Medium Irrigation for the year 2002-2003 was Rs.59.80 crore. But, it has been reduced to Rs.52.91 crore at the Revised Estimate stage. The Committee, when enquired about the reasons for reducing the Plan allocation at the Revised Estimates stage, the Ministry stated as under :

“The net reduction of Rs. 6.89 crore (11%) has resulted from minimal reduction in case of 19 schemes and some increase in 5 schemes while maintaining the RE same as BE for remaining 6 schemes under the sector, so as to minimise the adverse impact on the overall progress of the schemes during the year 2002-03.”

1.24 The (Plan) Budget Estimates for the year 2003-2004 is Rs.74.58 crore, which is Rs.14.78 crore more as compared to the previous financial year 2002-2003. When asked about the specific reasons for enhancing the Plan Budget allocation for the year 2003-2004. The Ministry stated :

“The year 2002-03 being the first year of the Tenth Plan period, the pace of progress is relatively slow. As per the year-wise phasing of the schemes under Major & Medium irrigation sector, higher performance targets have been envisaged during the year 2003-04 and, hence, require higher allocations in the year 2003-04.”

1.25 The Committee wanted to know the expected irrigation potential to be created in Ninth Plan and the actual achievement made thereon. In reply, the Ministry stated as below:

“Against a target of 17.05 m.ha. of potential to be created during the Ninth Plan, the potential actually created was 9.15 m.ha.”

CENTRAL WATER AND POWER RESEARCH STATION

1.26 Established in 1916, Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) is the premier national institute offering comprehensive R&D support to a variety of projects in the areas of water and energy resources development and water-borne transport. Since independence, the expansion of CWPRS has been synonymous with the growth of the nation itself. The UNDP aid delivered through projects in selected disciplines such as instrumentation, earth sciences, hydraulic structures and information technology, over the last four decades, has brought the research station at par with the leading hydraulic laboratories of the world.

1.27 During the year 2002-2003 the (Plan) budget allocation (under Budget head 2701) for Central Water and Power Research Station was earmarked at Rs.3.90 crore. However, it has been slashed down to Rs.1.22 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. The Committee enquired about the reasons. The Ministry stated as below:

“The reasons for reduced fund requirement are as follows.

Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs 3.90 crore of CWPRS for the year 2002-03 comprised mainly a requirement of Rs 3.00 crore for procurement of Current Meter Rating Trolley under the Hydrology Project component for CWPRS. The bids for the trolley were under evaluation when budget proposals were finalised by the Ministry. However, the procurement did not materialise due to technical non-compliance of the bids. In view of the poor response to global tender, it was decided in May 2002 that the existing Rating Trolley would be refurbished instead of procuring a new trolley. The budget requirement for this activity was reduced to Rs 0.32 crore. This in turn reduced the RE required from Rs. 3.90 crore to Rs. 1.22 crore.”

1.28 The physical targets and achievements under Central Water and Power Research Station during Ninth Plan are given below:

Name of the Scheme/Activity	Unit	IX Plan	
		Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4
1. Sediment Disposal Research	100	107	88
2. Augmentation of Water & Power Supply	100	96	67

3. Staff Colony Phase III	100	130	61
4. Hydrology Project (Externally aided)	100	127	69
5. Application of Remote Sensing	100	161	53
6. Upgradation of Coastal & Offshore Data Collection Capabilities	100	103	69
7. Modernisation of Earth Science Laboratory	100	67	37
8. Information Technology Development	100	35	35

1.29 The Committee noted that there were huge gap between physical targets and achievements under various schemes of Central Water and Power Research Station during the Ninth Plan. When asked about the reasons for shortfall in achievements under all the above mentioned schemes against the targets fixed during the Ninth Plan scheme/year-wise, the Ministry stated :

“The first three Schemes namely: (i) Sediment Disposal Research, (ii) Augmentation of Water & Power Supply, and (iii) Staff Colony Phase-III, are nearing completion and will be closed by the end of current financial year. The schemes “Application of Remote Sensing”, “Upgradation of Coastal & Offshore Data Collection Capabilities”, were approved during the year 1998-99 and, therefore, only two years of the IX plan were left for the desired physical progress. As per expenditure incurred on account of these schemes the percentage utilisation of funds out of the earmarked IX Plan outlay were 86% and 97% respectively. The schemes “Modernisation of Earth Science Laboratory” and “Information Technology Development”, however, registered 63% and 59% expenditure out of their IX Plan allocations due to procedural problems leading to non-procurement of various items of equipment. In case of Hydrology project, the procurement of Current Meter Rating Trolley costing about Rs 3.00 crore was abandoned following non-materialisation of global tender to procure the equipment which had resulted in the shortfall.”

NATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1.30 National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established in July 1982 as a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to carry out the water balance and other related studies on a scientific and realistic basis for optimum utilization of water resources of the country. These studies are essential for preparation of feasibility reports of water transfer links under National Perspective Plan, which has two components namely, Himalayan Rivers Component and Peninsular Rivers Component. Union Minister of Water Resources is the President of the National Water Development Agency Society, which is the apex body of NWDA.

1.31 National Water Development Agency had completed all water balance and related studies of National Perspective Plan by 1998-99. Pre-feasibility studies of 31 water transfer links of National Perspective Plan and feasibility reports of five water transfer links under peninsular component of the plan had also been completed. During 2002-03, the feasibility reports of two links namely, Damanganga-Pinjal link under peninsular link and Sardar-Yamuna link under Himalayan component are likely to be completed by March 2003. The topographical surveys for preparation of feasibility report of three links namely, Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link, Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link and Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link under peninsular component are to be completed by March 2003.

Work Programme for 2003-2004

1.32 The National Water Development Agency proposes to complete the feasibility reports of five links under peninsular component namely, Mahanadi-Godavari, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar, Krishna (Almati)-Pennar link and Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) and two links under Himalayan component, namely Ghagra-Yamuna link and Chunar-Sone Barrage link during 2003-2004.

1.33 According to the Ministry the National Water Development Agency will continue with the topographical surveys for preparation of feasibility reports of the following six links under Himalayan Component during the year:

1. Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha Link
2. Yamuna-Rajasthan Link
3. Sone Dam-Southern Tributaries of Ganga Link

4. Rajasthan-Sabarmati Link
5. Gandak-Ganga Link
6. Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (Manas-Sankosh-Teesta reach) Link

1.34 The Committee enquired about progress in the Ken-Betwa Link Project, for which the feasibility report had already been prepared by NWDA and meetings had already been conducted with the concerned State Governments and whether any consensus had been arrived in regard thereto. The Ministry stated as below:

“Recently, a meeting of the Group formed by the Ministry of Water Resources to sort out the technical issues and to arrive at consensus amongst the concerned states, headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission, was held on 10.2.2003 at New Delhi to sort out various issues involved in the Ken – Betwa link. During the meeting, the representatives of UP & MP reaffirmed the acceptance of their States on water yield of river Ken at proposed Daudhan dam site at 75% dependability proposed by NWDA. But the pending information regarding water utilization to finalise the water balance of Ken basin could not be supplied by any of the States due to non-finalisation of their revised Master Plans. While the representative of UP agreed to send the requisite information to the Group within a month, the representative of MP agreed to furnish the same within two months. The Chairman of the Group asked the two States to adhere to this time schedule. Prior to this, two Chief Engineer level meetings were also held with MP and UP States.”

1.35 The Tenth Plan outlay, Actual 2001-02, B.E. 2002-03, R.E. 2002-03 and B.E. 2003-04 are given below :

(Rupees in crore)

Name of the Scheme/Activity	X Plan Outlay	Actuals 2001-02		B.E. 2002-03		R.E. 2002-03		B.E. 2003-04	
		Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan
National Water Development Agency	85.00	14.00	0.00	16.50	0.00	15.50	0.00	20.00	0.00

1.36 The Committee enquired as to whether the funds allocated for 2003-2004 and Tenth Plan were adequate to carry out all the feasibility studies of linking the Himalayan rivers with Peninsular rivers. The Ministry in their reply stated :

“National Water Development Agency is a Govt. Society under the MOWR which functions with the financial support provided by the Ministry in the form of release of Grants-in-Aid from its plan outlays. The approved plan outlay for the Xth Plan period (April, 2002 to March, 2007) for continuation of National Water Development Agency as per approved EFC Memo is Rs.85 crores. Year-wise phasing of expenditure is as under:

2002-2003	16.50 crores
2003-2004	16.50 crores
2004-2005	17.00 crores
2005-2006	17.00 crores
2006-2007	18.00 crores

Total: 85.00 crores.

The approved plan outlays for National Water Development Agency during the X Plan period would be adequate for completion of feasibility studies of Himalayan & Peninsular Components of the Interlinking proposals.”

Task force on Inter-Linking of Rivers

1.37 As desired by the Supreme Court, the Union Government has constituted a Task Force through a resolution dated December 13, 2002 under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha with Shri C.C.Patel as Vice-Chairman and Dr. C.D. Thatte as Member-Secretary to expedite the inter-linking and to draw up a programme for ensuring the implementation of the link project with a reasonable time of not more than 10 years.

1.38 In addition to the above members of the Task Force, part-time members will also be nominated in consultation with the Chairman of the Task Force and with the approval of the Prime Minister. These part-time members will be (i) a member from water deficit states; (ii) a

person from water surplus states; (iii) an economist; (iv) a sociologist; and (v) a legal/world wildlife expert.

1.39 The terms of reference of the Task Force will be to:

- i) Provide guidance on norms for appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impact, environmental impact and preparation of resettlement plans;
- ii) Devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;
- iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation;
- iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;
- v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and
- vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

1.40 On the recommendation of Chairman of the Task Force and after approval of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Water Resources has nominated the following persons as members of the Task Force.

1. Sh. Deepak Dasgupta, Retired Chairman, National Highway Authority of India.
2. Sh. K.V.Kamath, MD & CEO, ICICI Bank, New Delhi.
3. Sh. R.K.Pachauri, Director General, Tata Energy Research Institute, N. Delhi.
4. Sh. Piyush Goyal, Chartered Accountant, Mumbai.
5. Sh. K.Kasturirangan, Chairman, ISRO, New Delhi.
6. Sh. G.C.Sahu, Retired Engineer-in-Chief, Government of Orissa.

1.41 The Task Force is expected to prepare Action Plan by April 30, 2003 giving the outline of time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the projects etc. It will suggest an alternative option for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery by July 2003. The Task Force is to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers in May/June 2003. The completion schedule for feasibility studies, detailed project reports and implementation of the project are respectively 31.12.2005, 31.12.2006 and 31.12.2016. The Task Force has held one meeting in January 2003.

Hydrology Project

1.42 This project is being implemented with World Bank assistance. The Credit Development Agreement and Project Agreement for this project was signed with the World Bank for six year project operation (1995-96 to 2000-01). Credit effectiveness of the project began in December 95. The project is being implemented by nine states viz., Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu and five central agencies viz., Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, Central Water and Power Research Station, National Institute of Hydrology and Indian Meteorological Department.

1.43 When asked about the financial and physical achievement of Hydrology Projects assisted by International Development Associations, the Ministry furnished the details as under:

“Component-wise physical & financial progress achieved under Hydrology Project based on compiled figures upto June, 2002 is given below in the Tables ‘A’ & ‘B’ respectively.

Table ‘A’ – Physical Progress:-

Sl. No.	Item	Target	Achieved	% Achievement
1.	River gauging sites	916	908	99
2.	Meteorological stations	436	431	99
3.	Observation wells	7912	7457	94
4.	Water quality	274	247	90
5.	Buildings	1587	1476	93
6.	Computer	668	563	84
7.	Vehicles	578	503	87
8.	Training	35661	23113	65
9.	Incremental staffing	3214	2439	76

Table ‘B’ – Financial Progress:- **(Rs. in crore)**

Sl. No	Component	Allotment	Expenditure upto 30.06.2002	Financial progress (as on 30.06.2002) as % age of total project cost
1.	Civil works	161.63	151.50	94
2.	Equipment and materials (goods)	229.88	168.31	73
3.	Training and studies	12.40	9.48	77
4.	Incremental staff salaries and recurrent costs	158.44	144.74	91
	TOTAL	562.35		-
5.	Contingencies @ 8.8%	49.31		-
	TOTAL	611.66	474.18	78

As per the projected figures for the remaining period of the year 2002-03, it is expected that overall physical & financial progress of 97% would be achieved by the end of March, 2003.”

1.44 Further, the Ministry informed that to achieve 100% target under the Hydrology Project, World Bank has already agreed for extension of date of completion upto 31st December, 2003 on the request of the Ministry of Water Resources.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1.45 The (Plan) Budget Estimates (under Budget head 2701) for Research and Development Programme during the year 2002-2003 was fixed Rs.2.50 crore. But, it has been enhanced to Rs.3.49 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. Again for the financial year 2003-2004 the allocation has been enhanced to Rs.15.00 crore. When the Committee enquired about the reasons for enhancing the allocation substantially at the Revised Estimates stage 2002-2003 and Budget Estimates stage 2003-2004, the Ministry in their reply stated as under :

“The Ministry has contemplated carrying out various types of Mass Awareness Activities in observance of the year 2003 as the Freshwater Year. Since mass awareness activities are covered under Research & Development Programme, the expenses towards the activities for the Freshwater year are to be met from the R&D allocation of the Ministry, which has been accordingly enhanced in the RE 2002-03 and BE 2003-04.”

1.46 The Committee wanted to know about the objectives and major programmes for the year which was being celebrated as ‘Fresh Water Year’ with break up of allocation under each of these schemes. The Ministry stated :

“The Ministry of Water Resources has prepared a concept paper for the observance of the ‘Freshwater Year 2003’.

The objectives as contained in the concept paper are as follows:

- a) Increase awareness among stake-holders regarding Scarcity value of Fresh Water
- b) Conservation & efficient use of Fresh Water
- c) Preservation of Fresh Water-Quality & its Ecosystem
- d) Augmentation of Fresh Water Resources
- e) Community partnership for informed decision making

The major programmes come under the following categories:

- a. Inauguration of the Fresh Water Programme (Curtain raiser)
- b. Mass Awareness campaign through Radio, TV and Newspaper
- c. Mass Awareness through traditional and modern media
- d. Conducting Training programmes, Workshops
- e. Preparation of pamphlets, publicity materials, brochures, etc. on selected themes/issues.
- f. Fresh Water Campaign, programmes on various topics viz., Augmentation of Water through Rainwater Harvesting, Participative Irrigation Management, Artificial Recharge of ground water Community mobilisation for cleaning degraded water bodies, lakes and river stretches-Jal Yatra/ River Darshan.

For the activities of the nature of mass awareness, publicity, campaign/advertisement, training and publication of various informative documents and guidelines, the allocation is about Rs. 2.33 crore in the year 2002-03 and Rs.12.00 crore in the year 2003-04. Other expenses specific to schemes shall be met from the corresponding scheme heads.”

MINOR IRRIGATION

1.47 Minor Irrigation Division is vested with the responsibility of policy formulation in the Minor Irrigation Sector at the national level. The work of minor irrigation is taken up by several departments of the State Governments e.g. Rural Development, Irrigation, Agriculture, Minor Irrigation, Panchayati Raj, Welfare, Institutional Finance, etc. Panchayats, Co-operatives and individual farmers are also involved in this work. The Division also helps the state governments in plan formulation in this sector and also in posing projects for external funding.

1.48 The (Plan) Budget Estimates under Minor Irrigation is given below:

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	BE 2002-2003	RE 2002-2003	BE 2003-2004
Minor Irrigation	109.16	97.31	95.22

1.49 The (Plan) Budget Estimates under Minor Irrigation for 2002-2003 was earmarked at Rs.109.16 crore. But, it has been scaled down to Rs.97.31 crore at the Revised Estimates

stage. Again the Budget Estimates for 2003-2004 has further been scaled down to Rs.95.22 crore. The Committee enquired about the reasons for scaling down the allocation for Minor Irrigation at both the above mentioned stages. In their reply, the Ministry stated :

“The Minor Irrigation sub-head consists of two parts:- Surface water based minor irrigation component and Groundwater component. The breakup of allocations under Minor Irrigation is as follows:

(Rs.in crore)

Sub-Head	BE 2002-2003	RE 2002-2003	BE 2003-2004
Surface Water Schemes	8.00	7.95	8.00
CGWB (Revenue)	98.16	85.68	84.22
CGWB (Capital)	3.00	3.68	3.00
Total	109.16	97.31	95.22

As far as ground water component is concerned, a Central Sector Scheme entitled “Study of Recharge to Ground Water” was approved during IX Plan at a cost of Rs.25.00 crores for implementation. The Board spent Rs.23.29 crores for implementation of various projects during the IX Plan and created an additional liability of Rs.12.52 crores. The EFC Memo for continuation of the scheme at a cost of Rs.150 crores was submitted to the Planning Commission. For additional liability, Planning Commission opined that it is a case of cost and time over-run and, therefore, a revised cost estimate proposal for the scheme may be formulated. Regarding new schemes proposed to be taken up during 10th Plan, the Planning Commission was of the view that the artificial recharge scheme should be made Centrally Sponsored Scheme with funding pattern of 75:15:10 between Centre, State and beneficiaries. In one of the meetings, Planning Commission also advised formulating a bigger scheme.

The BE provision of Rs.26.36 crores was kept keeping in view the proposed scheme costing Rs.150.00 crores. Keeping in view the above observations of the Planning Commission, RCE proposal was made for Rs.35.81 crores for clearing the additional liability. Accordingly, the RE provision was reduced to Rs.15.00 crores only. The reduction in

allocation for CGWB at RE stage in comparison to BE 2002-03 is mainly attributed to the reduction in allocation of the above mentioned scheme. ”

1.50 The Committee wanted to know as to what had been the adverse impact on the schemes due to reduced allocation under Minor Irrigation. The Ministry stated as under :

“As far Ground water component is concerned, the reduced allocation may not have any adverse impact on the various ongoing schemes of the CGWB as no scheme is being shelved due to non-availability of resources.”

1.51 The (Plan) Budget Estimates for Central Ground Water Board is given below :

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	B.E. 2002-2003	R.E. 2002-2003	B.E. 2003-2004
Central Ground Water Board	98.16	85.68	84.22

1.52 The (Plan) Budget Estimates for Central Ground Water Board for the year 2002-2003 was fixed at Rs.98.16 crore, however, it has been scaled down to Rs.85.68 crore at the RE stage. Again the BE 2003-2004 was further scaled down to Rs.84.22 crore. On being asked about its adverse impact on the various ongoing schemes of Central Ground Water Board, the Ministry, stated in their replies as under:

“Year 2003-04 is the terminal year for the scheme Hydrology Project. As such reduced provision of Rs. 5.38 crores has been kept under this scheme whereas provision for the scheme in B.E. 2002-03 was Rs. 7.80 crores. Therefore, provision of Rs. 84.22 crore will be sufficient for the on going schemes.”

RAIN WATER HARVESTING AND GROUND WATER RECHARGE

1.53 The Committee wanted to know about the estimated amount of annual rain water utilized for ground water recharge and how much rain water was wasted as run off. The Ministry furnished the details as under:

“There is an average annual precipitation (including snowfall) of 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. Out of this, the annual average flow in the river systems of the country is 1869 BCM. The utilizable surface water is assessed as 690 BCM and the annual replenishable ground water resource is about 432 BCM. Out of which 605 BCM is being presently utilized through Surface and Ground water resources. Rest of the water flows down into the sea out of which certain quantity of water is required for ecological needs of the rivers.

1.54 When the Committee desired to know as to whether the Government had assessed the quantum of rain water being harvested and utilized for different purposes in the country, the Ministry informed as follows:

“The rain water harvesting is being undertaken by various States, private NGOs etc. at different sites. No assessment of the quantum of rain water being harvested and utilized for different purposes in the country has been made.”

1.55 Over-exploitation of ground water in coastal areas have led to salt water intrusion in the equifers. The Committee asked about the extent of coastal area affected and any special plan chalked out to increase the ground water recharge in these areas. The Ministry informed the Committee as below:

“Studies conducted by CGWB so far have indicated intrusion of salt water in the limited pockets of coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry where over exploitation of ground water has taken place. These areas are Minjur, Tiruvallur district, Kuttam in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Region of UT of Pondicherry.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water has since been formulated to be taken up during X Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 3000 crore. The

Artificial Recharge structures proposed to be taken up under the scheme, in the over exploited areas will help in checking the salt water intrusion.”

1.56 Enquired as to whether any study had been conducted to examine the quality of water after recharge of water in various part of the country, the Ministry informed :

“During the implementation of artificial recharge schemes undertaken under Central Sector scheme “Study of Recharge to Ground Water”, an improvement in the quality of ground water was observed. Overall improvement of ground water quality due to percolation tanks was observed in Jalgaon and Amravati districts of Maharashtra. CGWB had carried out experimental study at Ashoknagar, Haora II Block, North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal in Arsenic affected area. It was observed that with induced recharge there is a dilution of Arsenic in ground water. The initial concentration of Arsenic in ground water was 0.128 mg/l which got reduced to 0.08 mg/l in 30 days.”

1.57 The details of awareness programme initiated by the Government to make the people aware of usefulness of the rain water harvesting and recharge of ground water are given below:

“Central Ground Water Authority organizes mass awareness and training programmes on ground water, which include rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. So far it has conducted 55 one-day training programmes and 118 one-day mass awareness programmes throughout the country. The training programmes were targeted for educated youth and qualified engineers/architects, NGOs, etc. and mass awareness programmes were held upto Panchayat level covering Schools, NGO groups, User Groups.

CGWA has launched a website on Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting (www.cgwaindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and storing it for future use.”

1.58 Quality of ground water is also deteriorating alarmingly. The Committee wanted to know about the special measures taken by the Ministry to tackle this problem. The Ministry replied as under:

“Central Ground Water Board monitors the ground water quality once in a year regularly through a network of around 15000 National Hydrograph Monitoring Stations throughout the country. It also carries out pollution studies. The studies carried out by CGWB indicate that the ground water in major parts of the country is by and large potable. There are, however, areas which have poor quality of ground water mainly due to the contamination from industrial and domestic effluents, excessive use of fertilizers, mining wastes, saline water ingress and due to the nature of the ground water bearing rock formations.

The steps taken by the Government to check ground water pollution are as follows:

- The CGWB is also undertaking special studies in the areas affected by ground water pollution and findings are being made available to the State Governments, State Pollution Control Boards for necessary measures.
- The Central Government has constituted a Central Ground Water Authority to regulate and control ground water in the country on 14.1.1997 under the Environment Protection Act,1986.
- Central Ground Water Authority has notified 11 vulnerable areas including ground water polluted areas for prohibition and restriction on the construction of any new ground water extraction structure without the prior permission of Authority.
- Public Mass Awareness programmes are organised to make the public aware the present ground water situation in respect of the areas where the problem exists.
- Implementation of ground water recharge schemes with the objective to improve the water table and the ground water quality in the problematic areas.”

COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1.59 The Command Area Development Programme was initiated in 1974-75 as a centrally sponsored programme with the objective of ensuring efficient utilization of created irrigation potential for optimizing agricultural production from irrigated lands. Presently there are 236 projects covered under the programme with a Cultivable Command Area (CCA) of about 22.78 mha spread over 28 States and 2 Union Territories. During the X Plan, out of 236 on-going schemes, 96 schemes (including 16 new schemes) with CCA of 7.642 mha are proposed to be continued under the “restructured Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) programme”. Rest of the schemes are slated to be completed by the end of March 2003.

1.60 The programme involves execution of on-farm development works like construction of field channels and field drains, land leveling and shaping, reclamation of water-logged areas and conjunctive use of surface water and ground water. Warabandi or the rotational system of water distribution is undertaken with a view to ensure equitable and timely supply of water to fields. Adaptive trials, demonstrations and training of farmers are encouraged to disseminate technical know-how among the farmers for establishing cropping patterns, improved farming practices and maintaining soil health. Under the Command Area Development Programme, farmers are being encouraged and being motivated to form Water Users’ Associations (WUAs), which would take up operation and maintenance of the system, collect irrigation charges and take up equitable water distribution.

1.61 The Command Area Development Programme is proposed to be restructured and renamed as “Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Scheme” during 2003-07 (remaining period of X Plan). The first year of the X Plan i.e. 2002-03 is continuing on the IX plan pattern. The main features of CADWM would be: (a) continuation of those components which have upon review been found to be beneficial to the farmers; (b) inclusion of some new components considered essential for correcting the deficiencies in the irrigation systems; and (c) deletion of those components which are less important and have lost their utility over time.

1.62 The (Plan) Budget Estimates under Command Area Development is given under:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Scheme	B.E. 2002-2003	R.E. 2002-2003	B.E. 2003-2004
Command Area Development	202.00	153.05	202.00

1.63 During the year 2002-2003 the (Plan) Budget Estimates under Command Area Development (CAD) was earmarked at Rs.202.00 crore. However, it has been reduced to Rs.153.05 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. When enquired about the reasons for under spending of fund under Command Area Development Programme and the remedial measures taken to utilize cent percent fund in the same year, the Ministry in their reply stated:

“Command Area Development (CAD) Programme is a reimbursement Programme. The releases made to the States are linked to Budget allocation and actual spending by the State Governments. Under the Programme Grants-in-aid is admissible as reimbursement on matching basis (50:50) to the State Governments. It has been noted that States have not been able to provide matching amount in their respective State Budgets, which is the main reason for under utilization of 100 % funds, allocated under the CAD programme.

The financing of the activities carried out under the Programme comes from the following three sources viz., State outlays and Central assistance on matching basis for certain identified activities; and Institutional finance. The financing pattern in force since April 1996 is, however, as follows: -

- (1) Grants will be admissible on matching (50:50) basis to the State Governments as reimbursement on establishment, topographical and soil surveys, planning and design of OFD works, supervision of OFD works, construction of field channels and field drains, enforcement of Warabandi, adaptive trials, demonstration and training, crop compensation, subsidy to small and marginal farmers on identified items, evaluation studies sponsored by the States, reclamation of waterlogged areas and one-time functional grants to the Water Users ' Associations.
- 2) Hundred percent grant from the Central Government is given for orientation training of senior level officers and also for evaluation studies, sponsored by the Central Government.

- (3) Subsidy is admissible for land leveling and shaping, ground water development and sprinkler and drip irrigation to small and marginal farmers, on the pattern followed under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).
- (4) Loan for the purchase of equipment and machinery is provided to the States on a matching basis.

The Ministry will request the State Governments to avoid deviation of budget allocations fixed in the beginning of the year and match the same with actual expenditure.”

1.64 The fund under Command Area Development Programme has not been utilized 100% since last number of years. When asked about the reasons, the Ministry stated as under:

“The CAD Programme is heavily dependent on spending by the State Governments and their performance. It is noted that the States have not been able to provide matching amount in their respective States Budgets, which is the main reason for non-utilization of 100 % funds, allocated under the CAD programme.”

1.65 The IX Plan outlay for the Command Area Development Programme was Rs 854.77 crore. The approved plan outlays and financial releases under Central Sector for 1997-98 to 2001-02 are given in Table below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Releases	Percentage utilisation w.r.t BE
1997-98	140.70	129.83	129.68	92.17
1998-99	188.00	176.76	175.32	93.25
1999-2000	178.00	161.62	165.92	93.21
2000-01	160.88	119.74)	144.95	90.10
2001-02	187.19	115.53	148.27	79.21
1997-2002 (IX Plan)	854.77	703.48	764.14	89.40

1.66 As mentioned in the performace budget the fund under Common Area Development are released in 2 instalments. Second instalment is released in the month of March every year

but it remains unutilized. Director of Audit took a serious note of the unspent balances lying with the States. When asked to clarify, the Ministry in their written reply stated :

“Funds under CAD Programme are released against the demands of States on quarterly basis in four installments. While ad-hoc releases are made in the first quarter based on average quarterly physical and financial progress in the previous year, target fixed by the State Government for the current year, budgetary allocation and allocations made by the Planning Commission etc., the releases for the remaining three quarters are made on the basis of reconciliation of accounts, utilization certificates and audit certificates of the previous years, making adjustments for unspent balance (if any), actual physical progress and expenditure during the previous quarter and the anticipated target for the current year. Normally, the States submit accounts once/twice a year and, therefore, the releases are made accordingly.

It is observed that the unspent backlog of funds lying with the State Government is because of excess expenditure made by them on establishment and other CAD activities, whereas releases are made strictly as per the norms of CAD Programme and thus, backlog is unavoidable up to one quarter.

Generally the physical progress for the quarter ending December and the revised targets based on revised estimates of State Governments are received in the month of February/ March for reimbursement/release of the grant. Hence, the reimbursement in the last quarter is sometimes made in March.”

1.67 The Command Area Development Programme is proposed to be restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management Scheme. The Committee desired to know the reasons for it. The Ministry informed as under:

“The Programme is being restructured in pursuance of the recommendations of the Working Group of the Planning Commission of the X Plan, the suggestions of the Ministry of Finance and the views expressed by the State Governments.

Under the restructured Programme, three new components viz; (i) correction of system deficiencies up to the distributaries; (ii) funds for motivational activities for Water Users Associations and; (iii) renovation Minor Irrigation tanks under the command of CAD projects are being introduced primarily because of bringing in efficiency in water conveyance in distributaries upto 150 cusec capacity, minors, outlets; effective water management in farms through Participatory Irrigation Management Programme and added thrust on adaptive trials

etc. Besides, the Working Group of the Planning Commission on “Private Sector and Beneficiary Participation in Irrigation Water Management also recommended that due to added thrust on water management under the CAD Programme, the name may be changed to Command Area Development & Management Programme.”

1.68 The Participatory Irrigation Scheme for rehabilitation and Management of Minor Irrigation Project has been covered under restructured Command Area Development and Water Management Programme. On being asked whether the scheme was fully covered under the said programme, the Ministry stated as under :

“The component relating to renovation of Minor Irrigation tanks has been included under CAD Programme for the X Plan but its scope shall be confined to the Minor irrigation tanks within the commands of Command Area Development Projects only. The expenditure admissible under this item is to be shared in the ratio of 60:40:10 (Centre: State: Farmers). Formation of Water Users’ Associations is a prerequisite for this item. Thus PIM scheme is fully covered under rehabilitation and management of MI projects in CAD Commands.”

1.69 The proposed target of X Plan period and 2003-04 are as under:

(Area in million ha.)

Item	IX Plan		Target X Plan (2003-07)
	Target	Achievement	
Correction of system deficiency up to design discharge of 150 cusecs	0.000	0.000	1.37
Field channel/full package of OFD works	0.950	1.770	0.55
Field drains/intermediate drains/link drains	0.100	0.330	0.16
Warabandi	3.000	1.930	1.80
Reclamation of waterlogged areas	0.060	0.02	0.05
Renovation of tanks	0.000	0.000	0.23

1.70 The physical target fixed under Warabandi and Reclamation of water logged area were 3.000 and 0.060 million ha. But, only 1.930 and 0.02 million ha. physical achievements were made during the Ninth Plan. When asked about the reasons for poor performance under these two components, the Ministry informed as under:

“The physical targets are fixed by the State Governments before the start of Plan period keeping in view the projected budgetary allocations. Allocations under the Programme are made in the beginning of the Plan period. During the implementation phase, these targets are refixed by the State Governments as new physical targets in accordance with the actual allocation of funds and, therefore, the proportionate reduction in the targets and achievement has been observed.”

1.71 The Water User's Associations have been formed in only 18 States. When the Committee wanted to know as to what effective measures were being taken so that more and more Water Users Associations were formed in all the States, the Ministry in their reply stated as under :

“There has been a progressive increase in the number of Water Users Associations formed over the year. By now, Water Users associations have been formed in 22 States. However, in certain States much progress has not been achieved because of a variety of reasons. For example, in case of Uttar Pradesh, the Water Users Associations were directly formed at minor level on an ad-hoc basis. The State Government has now agreed to form Water Users Association as per the guidelines of the Government of India. Certain States like Sikkim, Mizoram and Uttaranchal have only recently started the Programme and they are expected to form Water Users associations in due course. Some states like Jharkhand and Tripura are, at present, not implementing the CAD Programme.”

ACCELERATED IRRIGATION BENEFITS PROGRAMME

1.72 A large number of river valley projects, both multipurpose and irrigation, have spilled over from plan to plan mainly because of financial constraints being faced by the State Governments. As a result, despite a huge investment having already been made on these projects, the country has not been able to derive the desired benefits.

1.73 The Government of India launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme during 1996-97 for accelerating implementation of on-going irrigation/multi-purpose projects on which substantial progress has been made and which are beyond the resources capability of the State Governments and for other major and medium irrigation projects which are in advanced stage of construction and could yield irrigation benefits in next four agricultural seasons.

1.74 From 1996-97 to 1998-99 the CLA was provided to general category States in the ratio of 1:1 (Centre:State) and to special category states in the ratio of 2:1 (Centre : State). Since 1999-2000, the CLA under AIBP is being provided in the ratio of 2:1 (Centre :State) to general category states and in the ratio of 3:1 (Centre:State) to special category states and drought prone KBK districts of Orissa. The minor surface irrigation scheme of North Eastern States, hilly states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and KBK districts of Orissa are also included under the programme w.e.f. 1999-2000.

1.75 Keeping in view the suggestions made by the Planning Commission last year, the AIBP has been linked with economic reforms in the irrigation sector. The guidelines have been modified accordingly and got approved by the Cabinet. As per the modified guidelines, the reforming states under general category, which agree to revise their water rates so as to recover full O&M cost within a period of 5 years, will get CLA in the ratio of 4:1 (Centre :State) instead of existing 2:1 (Centre : State) and under special category in the ratio of 1:0 (Centre :State) instead of existing 3:1 (Centre :State) from 2002-2003 onwards.

1.76 The Ministry has launched Fast Track Programme w.e.f. 01 Feb 02. The projects will be fully funded by the Centre by providing 100% loan. Only the approved major and medium irrigation projects which can be completed in one year (two working seasons) will be included under this programme. During the year 2001-02, an amount of Rs.472.86 crore was released under Fast Track Programme. The releases of subsequent installments are based upon their

reports. The funds are released by the Ministry of Finance on the recommendations of this Ministry.

1.77 An amount of Rs.8480.03 crore for 149 major/medium projects and 2450 surface minor irrigation schemes in various states has been released up to 2001-2002. The additional irrigation potential created in major/medium irrigation projects up to March 2002 is of the order of 1974 thousand ha.

1.78 The Plan budgetary allocation for AIBP are given below.

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	Actual 2001-2002	B.E. 2002-2003	R.E.2002-2003	B.E. 2003-2004
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	2601.98	2800.00	2800.00	2800.00

1.79 The Plan budget allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for 2003-2004 has been earmarked at Rs.2800.00 crore. When asked whether this allocation was sufficient to increase the pace of work under this programme, the Ministry, in their reply stated:

“Yes, the present allocation is sufficient. The CLA under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is provided on the basis of proposals received from States. The proposals for availing CLA under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for the year 2003-04 will be invited from the State Governments after commencement of the new financial year as the States have to indicate the budget outlay provided for each project proposed for CLA.”

1.80 The Committee enquired about the responses of the reformer States about the above modified guidelines of AIBP. The Ministry stated:

“Out of the States receiving CLA under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), four States namely Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Orissa have come forward for inclusion under the category of “Reforming States” by submitting ‘Undertaking’ as required under modified guidelines. A State is classified as Reforming State if it agrees to rationalize the water rates to cover the full operation and maintenance charges within a period

of 5 years. Such States are being provided CLA in the ratio of 4:1 (Centre:State) if the States are under general category and CLA in full if the States are under special category.”

1.81 The Ministry has launched Fast Track Programme in February, 2002 to complete the Major and Medium Irrigation Projects which are nearing completion. When the Committee desired to know about the details of the projects included, the total number of projects which have been completed and the total number of projects which were likely to be completed during 2003-2004 under Fast Track Programme, the Ministry furnished the following details:

“During 2002-03 an amount of Rs.69.29 crore has been released to 4 major/medium projects in two States under Fast Track Programme and a proposal for release of Rs.188.88 crore for 7 major/medium projects in 4 States is under submission to Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry further, informed that during 2001-02, 15 major/medium projects in 6 States were included under Fast Track Programme out of which one project the Upper Ganga including Madhya Ganga project of Uttar Pradesh has already been completed. Therefore, the remaining 14 projects are likely to be completed during 2003-04.”

1.82 Enquired about the total number of projects brought under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme till date and the total number of them have been completed since the inception of scheme, the Ministry stated:

“In all 155 major/ medium irrigation projects have received CLA under AIBP since inception of this programme in 1996-97. Out of these, 21 major/medium projects have since been completed under AIBP.”

1.83 A total 44 Major and 10 Medium Projects are pending since pre-fifth five year plan. when asked about the latest position of these projects and reasons for delay in their completion and efforts made by the Ministry in each project for their expeditious completion in their reply the Ministry stated as follows :

“Out of 44 major and 10 medium pre-fifth plan pending projects, 12 major and 2 medium projects have since been completed. There are several reasons for non-completion of these projects, the most overriding among them is non availability of requisite funds in the annual plans due to thin spreading of available resources, which eventually leads to the syndrome of cost and time over run cycle. In view of this, the Ministry of Water Resources has launced AIBP during 1996-97. The priority is being given to pre- fifth plan projects under this programme. The Fast Track Programme, which is also a component of Accelerated

Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), has been launched w.e.f. 1st February, 2002 for completion of such projects which may be completed in one year (two working seasons). The Secretary(WR) is holding review meetings every year with State Irrigation Secretaries to review the position of pre-fifth plan projects and requirement of funds for completion of these projects. Guidelines of AIBP have also been modified so as to avoid thin spreading of resources.”

1.84 The Committee in their last report i.e. Demands for Grants (2002-2003) had recommended intensification of monitoring of ongoing projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. When asked about the concrete action taken by the Ministry on the Committee’s recommendations, the Ministry stated:

“The field Chief Engineers of CWC are closely monitoring the projects receiving funds under AIBP and submitting periodical monitoring reports to Ministry of Water Resources and CWC Head Quarters. The Chief Engineer, CWC at Head Quarters examines the reports and visits the projects as and when required. Senior Officers of this Ministry make monitoring visits and review the progress with the State Government officers.”

1.85 Further, the Ministry informed that the working Group for the Tenth Plan has assessed that 171 major, 259 medium and 72 Extension, Renovation and Modernisation (ERM) projects were ongoing projects in the Ninth Plan. Besides, 13 major, 37 medium and 36 ERM projects were taken up in the Plan period. The likely completion during the Ninth Plan are 25 major, 45 medium and 14 ERM projects. Thus, a total of 159 major, 242 medium and 89 ERM projects are estimated to spillover into the Tenth Plan, after reclassification of a few projects. A further 67 major, 130 medium and 34 ERM projects are expected to be taken up in the Tenth Plan. The Working Group has proposed an outlay of Rs.1,09,025 crore (Rs.1,07,327 crore under State Plan and Rs.1,698 crore under Central Plan) for the Tenth Plan for ongoing projects and new projects. With this investment, 103 major, 240 medium and 62 ERM projects are expected to be completed in the Tenth Plan and 11.14 m.ha. created.

FLOOD PROOFING PROGRAMME

1.86 Areas north of the Ganga are chronically flood-affected regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The worst affected areas lie in North Bihar. Numerous rivers originating from Nepal and out falling into the Ganga traverse these areas. The recurring floods coupled with drainage

congestion are responsible for the backwardness of the region. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (1980) has assessed the area liable to floods in the above states and have suggested short and long-term measures for flood management. A committee is reviewing the present status of implementation of the recommendations of Rashtriya Barh Ayog to ascertain the bottlenecks faced by the State Governments in its implementation and suggest suitable measures.

1.87 The two main objectives of the flood management programme so far undertaken in the country were (i) mitigation of floods with the help of construction of embankments, drainage improvements, building reservoirs, detention basins and afforestation, etc, and (ii) mitigation of susceptibility to flood damage through regulation of economic activity in the flood plains, flood forecasting and disaster preparedness, town and village protection works, raising of villages, etc.

1.88 The budgetary allocation for Flood Proofing Programmes is given below :

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	BE 2002-2003	RE 2002-2003	BE 2003-2004
Flood Proofing Programmes	1.50	0.01	2.00

1.89 The (Plan) Budget Estimates for Flood Proofing Programmes during the year 2002-2003 was Rs.1.50 crore. It was, however, reduced to Rs.0.01 crore at the Revised Estimates stage 2002-2003. When asked about the reasons for very poor performance under the scheme during the year 2002-2003 and the remedial measures taken to utilize the cent percent allocation in the same year, the Ministry stated :

“This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented by Government of Bihar whose 100% cost of works is funded by Government of India. So far an advance of Rs. 406.84 lakh has been given to Government of Bihar out of which a sum of only Rs 324.295 lakh has been adjusted so far. The poor performance of the scheme is due to delay in completion of schemes under the programme by the State Government.

This matter was discussed during the 10th meeting of the Steering Committee held in May, 2000 wherein Secretary (WR), Ministry of Water Resources, who is also the Chairman of

the Steering Committee expressed his concern over the slow progress of the execution of the flood proofing schemes. Commissioner (Water Resources), Government of Bihar assured the Committee to evolve some mechanism like to identify a nodal officer under each Chief Engineer to monitor and ensure expeditious completion of the scheme at the earliest without further delay.

Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission had suggested that Government of Bihar may deploy one division under each Chief Engineer exclusively for attending to the implementation of the flood proofing works in the field so that there is full attention to these works for their speedy and timely completion.

Ganga Flood Control Commission is reminding the State Government regularly for the speedy implementation of the schemes under the programme.”

1.90 The Committee wanted to know about the details of Flood Proofing Programme initiated so far under the scheme, the Ministry in their reply informed :

“There are 100 approved schemes under the programme. Out of this 57 schemes have been taken up for implementation by the Government of Bihar, which are under various stages of execution.”

1.90(a).The Committee during evidence enquired as to whether there is any flood control scheme other than Ganga Basin States in Southern and Western States as these States are also experiencing flood havoc due to excessive rainfall. The Secretary, Water Resources informed that the scheme for small riverlets is not possible but, as suggested by the Hon’ble Member we will also consider the scheme other than Ganga-Basin States.

CRITICAL ANTI-EROSION WORKS IN GANGA BASIN STATES

1.91 In order to take up critical anti-erosion works in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal by the respective State Governments; and in and around Farakka Barrage Project by Farakka Barrage Project Authority, a centrally sponsored scheme with a central share of Rs.110 crore, was sanctioned in January 2001 under the name “Critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States” for implementation during the IX five year plan. An amount of Rs.51.85 crore, comprising of Rs.22.08 crore to Bihar, Rs.10.89 crore to Uttar Pradesh, Rs.1.00 crore to Uttaranchal and Rs.17.88 crore to West Bengal, was released up to March 2002 during the IX Plan against the central share of Rs.110 crore. The balance spill over portion of the scheme amounting to Rs.58.15 crore is being continued in the X Plan against outlay of Rs.192 crore and is to be completed in first two years i.e. 2002-03 and 2003-04 of the X Plan.

1.92 The Budget Estimates under Critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States for the year 2003-2004 has been reduced drastically to Rs.12.50 crore as compared to the previous financial year 2002-2003. The Committee enquired about the reasons for reducing the allocation. The Ministry stated as under :

“The total spill over cost of the 9th Plan scheme was Rs. 58.15 crore (Rs. 40.65 crore for the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and Bihar under budget head 3601 and Rs. 17.50 crore for Farakka Barrage Project Authority under budget head 5075). This amount was divided into two years for completion of the scheme continuing from 9th Plan. The earmarked amount was accordingly divided during 2002-03 & 2003-04 limiting to total provision.”

1.93 When asked as to whether the Ministry had initiated any new scheme under Critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin states, the Ministry stated :

“For taking up critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States, a total outlay of Rs. 192 crore has been provided in the 10th Plan. Out of this, Rs. 58.15 crore (Rs. 40.65 crore for the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and Bihar and Rs. 17.50 crore for the Farakka Barrage Project Authority) has been earmarked for critical anti erosion schemes of

Ganga Basin States covered under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme which has spilled over from 9th Plan and is being continued for the first two years of the 10th Plan. In respect of the remaining amount of Rs. 133.85 crore (as Central Share), it is proposed to formulate a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme to be taken up during the remaining period of 10th Plan. For this purpose, a Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission to identify the new schemes of critical nature to be included in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in respect of Ganga Basin States and around Farakka Barrage Project.”

DESILTING OF OLD RIVERS

1.94 The Ministry constituted a high level scientific committee to study the problem of silting in rivers under the Chairmanship of former Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) on 8th October, 2001. The final report of the committee has been submitted on 16.1.2003. When enquired about the main recommendations of the aforesaid Committee, the Ministry informed the Committee as under:

“The main recommendations of the “Committee on silting of rivers in India” are as follows:

1. Desilting of rivers for flood control is not an economically viable solution.
2. The dredging in general has been found to be ineffective and should not be resorted to particularly in major rivers. There are of course some locations such as tidal rivers, confluence points and the likes, which can be tackled by desilting after thorough examination. The selective dredging has been suggested depending upon local conditions. Desilting of rivers can marginally minimize the magnitude of floods and be effective only for a short period.
3. Afforestation, right practice of land use and catchment area treatment are some of the measures which have been suggested in the report for minimizing siltation.
4. In respect of rivers flowing from other countries such as Nepal/Bhutan/Myanmar, since the catchment area treatment will necessitate an understanding with these countries, the Committee has suggested reaching an understanding with all these countries to implement schemes, which may reduce the silt load in these rivers.

5. The Committee has reported that the Department of Sedimentation, Chinese Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research is understood to have taken up feasibility study of desilting of 20 medium and minor rivers in Bangladesh (funded by UNDP) and suggested that they could be contacted for exchange of information in respect of this project. The feasibility of conducting similar studies upstream of Farakka in order to manage the silt problem may be explored.
6. On status of silting, the Committee studied the cross sectional area which were available for the last 5 to 10 years in respect of few sites on Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna etc. and concluded that aggradations is not pronounced and alarming. However, the committee has suggested that the carrying capacity of rivers should be monitored on regular basis to obtain complete knowledge regarding aggradation / degradation for which the relevant data should be collected and analysed to understand the nature of silting process.
7. A specific scientific study needs to be taken up by NEHARI under Brahmaputra Board, Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee, River Research Institute, Kolkata, CWPRS, Pune and other similar organisations to establish the cause of aggradation / degradation in rivers and to suggest short term / long term remedial measures to minimise / remove the siltation problem.”

1.95 The Committee wanted to know about the observations of the Ministry on the report and also as to what further action was being taken on the report of the committee. The Ministry informed as under:

“The recommendations of the committee have been examined in the Ministry. In certain recommendations, confirmatory studies/analysis is required to be done for which a Select Group of Officers under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission has been constituted by the Ministry to look into those recommendations and suggest modalities and action points for implementation of the same. Rest of the recommendations are being processed in the Ministry for necessary action by the State Governments/concerned organisations. The first meeting of the Select Group of Officers was held on 27.02.2003. Further action will be taken accordingly.”

Indo-Nepal Water Resources Development

1.96 The Government of India is having continuous dialogue with Nepal in the field relating to water resources. At present negotiations are continuing for two important projects i.e., Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project on river Mahakali (Sarda in India) and Sapta Kosi High Dam on Kosi River. The status of both the projects is as under:-

Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project:

1.97 India signed Treaty on “Integrated Development of Mahakali River” with Nepal on 12 February 1996 and the instruments for ratification were exchanged on 5 June 1997 and the Treaty came into force w.e.f. 5 June 1997. The centrepiece of the Treaty is Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project for which both the countries agreed to prepare a Joint Detailed Project Report (DPR). A Joint Group of Experts (JGE) of India and Nepal has been discussing the progress with regard to the preparation of DPR for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. The JGE has so far held 19 meetings. The last meeting of the JGE was held in July 2002. The additional field investigations have been completed jointly with Nepal and Detailed Project Report for the project is under preparation. In addition, after completion of the field investigations, the hydro meteorological and micro-seismic observations are also being continued during the X Plan, which is a continued activity since VIII plan. Outlay for the scheme for 2003-04 is Rs.3.60 crore.

Survey and Investigation of Kosi High Dam Project:

1.98 India has been pursuing with Nepal to take up the investigations, surveys and studies of Kosi High Dam in Nepal as a permanent solution to the flood problem in Kosi river and to stabilise the benefits from Kosi Barrage.

1.99 The Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) to finalise the modalities of investigations and methods of assessment of benefits for joint studies/investigations was constituted in 1991 which has been subsequently reconstituted as a Joint Team of Experts (JTE) in March 1996. The JTE has so far held four meetings. The fourth meeting was held in October 2001 in

Kathmandu where the Inception Report has been finalized for joint investigations/ studies of the Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme. Action has also been taken to set up the Joint Project Office to take up field investigations, studies and preparation of Detailed Project Report of the project. The project will benefit both Nepal and India in generation of power, irrigation, navigation and flood control benefits. Outlay for the scheme for 2003-04 is Rs.1.00 crore.

Indo-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources(JCWR)

1.100 The Indo-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) was constituted in pursuance of the decisions taken by the Prime Ministers of Nepal and India during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal to India from 31 July – 6 August 2000. The first meeting of the JCWR was held in Kathmandu from 1 October to 3 October 2000. The JCWR has been constituted to discuss and take decisions on important issues pertaining to cooperation in the water resources sector including implementation of the existing agreements and understandings. The JCWR shall oversee the work of all the Technical and Expert Level Committees and Groups in the field of water resources. It will act as an Umbrella Committee of the committees and groups. The second meeting of the JCWR is likely to be held shortly.

Joint Committee On Kosi & Gandak Projects

1.101 A single Joint Committee on the Kosi and Gandak Projects has been set up by dissolving the existing separate Committees on these projects to review and take necessary measures on issues pertaining to the operation and maintenance of the Kosi and Gandak projects. The first meeting was held during December 2001 at Kathmandu, Nepal.

1.102 The Committee during evidence enquired as to what steps have been taken to persuade the Nepalese Government to take flood control measures in this regard. The Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources informed the Committee that the agreement on Sapta Kosi Project has already been signed with the Nepal Government. As per plan a Multi-purpose Project in Nepal to control flood is under consideration. To prepare Detail Project Report at the cost of 29 crore Rupees has been got sanctioned one month back. The dam project will be on Sapta Kosi and the matter is being pursued. Further, the additional secretary informed

the committee that the Government of Nepal has not clearly agreed to construct the dam on Gandak and the Ministry has been continuously corresponding in this regard.

SUTLEJ YAMUNA LINK CANAL

1.103 The Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal project is a centrally funded scheme, A total amount of Rs.499.12 crore had been released to the government of Punjab up to the end of March 1994. The state government had subsequently submitted a revised estimate which has been scrutinized by Central Water Commission and approved by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources for Rs.601.25 crore. The works have been standstill since July 1990. In the meanwhile, in their judgement dated January 15, 2002, on the suit filed by the state of Haryana in the matter of completion of SYL Canal, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the Punjab government to complete the canal and make it functional within one year of its judgement. Further, they have also directed the Union Government to complete the canal through its own agencies as expeditiously as possible, if the canal is not completed by the state of Punjab within a period of one year. Government of Punjab has not asked for funds so far to start the construction works.

1.104 When asked about the latest position of completion of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Project and the detailed follow-up actions taken in this regards, as one year had already been elapsed since the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Ministry stated:

“Supreme Court in its judgement dated 15th January, 2002 had directed the State of Punjab to continue the digging of the Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal, portion of which has not been completed as yet and make the canal functional within one year from January 15, 2002. It had also directed that the Union Government should get it done through its own agencies if the digging work is not completed by the Punjab government within a period of one year.

As a follow up action, the matter regarding taking up of completion of balance work of SYL canal was taken up with the Government of Punjab at various levels. Letters were written to the Secretary (Irrigation), Government of Punjab on 25.1.2002, to the Principal Secretary (Irrigation), Government of Punjab on 3.1.2003, to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab on 20.5.2002, 8.10.2002, 8.11.2002 and 21.2.2003 requesting to indicate the construction

schedule and the revised costs involved for the completion of the Punjab portion of the Sutlej Yamuna Link canal in compliance of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources also wrote to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab on 2.5.2002 & 11.11.2002 emphasizing the early completion of the SYL canal.

Also, in the two meetings held at the instance of Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources on 25.7.2002 and 19.12.2002, the matter of completing the canal was discussed with the Chief Minister of Punjab. During the meeting held on 25.7.2002, it was conveyed to the Chief Minister of Punjab that the Supreme Court judgement is unambiguous and the Government of Punjab should inform about the construction schedule, finances required and the manner in which they wish to comply with the directions of the Court. During the meeting held on 19.12.2002, the Union Minister of Water Resources emphasized that irrespective of the problems highlighted by the Chief Minister, the immediate necessity is to take steps to implement the judgement of the Supreme Court.

A note on SYL canal prepared keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court was also discussed by the Committee of Secretaries in a meeting held on 24.1.2003. Pursuant to their observation that a contingency plan has to be worked out with the active cooperation of the Government of Punjab, the Chief Secretary of the State Government has been requested on 21.2.2003 to provide details of works, revised costs, construction schedule, mechanism for handing over of works etc. relevant to the preparation of the contingency plan. The information sought in the above letter dated 21.2.2003 to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab is awaited.

Meanwhile, the State of Haryana during November 2002 has filed an I.A. in its Original Suit No.6/96 seeking issue of appropriate directions to complete the canal. The State of Punjab has also filed a Suit before the Supreme Court on 12th January 2003 praying for discharging/dissolving the obligation to construct SYL canal under the Supreme Court judgement dated 15.1.2002.”

NATIONAL PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED

1.105 National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC Ltd.) was incorporated in 1957 under Companies Act, 1956 for taking up the construction of River Valley Projects and other activities. The total number of employees of the company is 2880. 2547 employees

have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme and an amount of Rs. 59.07 crore has been utilised.

1.106 The Company's accumulated losses till March, 2002 were Rs. 489.40 crore. The main reasons of its sickness are continuous losses since, 1989 negative net worth since 1990-91, reinstatement of 950 retrenched workmen in 1991, surplus manpower, high interest cost on loans, fall in bagging of works and consequent low turnover, poor realisation of dues from clients, slow down on marketing activities due to decision of the government regarding phased closure in 1993.

1.107 Following the guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises, the Ministry sent a Cabinet Note on revival of the company based on the report of M/s Batliboi & Company, to the Prime Minister's Office in June 1999 for appraisal of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister-in-charge of this Ministry. As desired by Prime Minister's Office, M/s IDBI was engaged to evaluate the revival plan suggested by M/s Batliboi & Company. On the basis of evaluation report submitted by IDBI, a draft note for CCEA regarding revival of NPCC Limited has been prepared and circulated among the concerned Ministries/departments for their comments. As per the comments of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, the matter has been referred to the Ministry of Disinvestments to explore the possibilities of disinvestment of NPCC Limited. The comments from Ministry of Disinvestments have been received in December 2002 and are stated to be under consideration of the Ministry.

1.108 As stated by the Ministry, all out efforts were being made to bag new orders so that the surplus manpower could be utilized. As on 31.10.2002, the total order book position was Rs. 750.00 crore. Business process re-engineering and financial re-engineering was under process to arrest the losses through cost reduction and improvement of profitability of the organisation.

1.109 The (Non-Plan) budgetary allocation for National Projects Construction Corporation during the years 2001-02 actual expenditure, 2002-03 BE, 2002-03 RE and 2003-04 BE are given below :-

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the scheme/Activity	Actuals 2001-02		BE 2002-03		RE 2002-03		BE 2003-04	
	Plan	Non plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan	Plan	Non-plan
National Projects Construction	0.00	24.00	1.00	14.00	0.00	19.00	0.00	14.00
Voluntary Retirement Scheme	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00

(Source of financing : Demand No. 102- Ministry of Water Resources for 2003-04)

1.110 The (Non Plan) Budget Estimates for National Project Construction Corporation during the year 2002-2003 was earmarked at Rs.14.00 crore, but, it has been enhanced to Rs.27.00 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. When the Committee enquired about the reasons for substantially enhancing the allocations at the Revised Estimates stage, the Ministry in their reply stated :

“While sending proposals for BE 2002-03, the Ministry had proposed provision of Rs. 26.79 crore. The Ministry of Finance, however, agreed for a provision of Rs. 14.00 crore only. Therefore, budget allocation was raised from Rs. 14 crore to Rs. 27 crore to meet the extra requirement of Rs. 13 crore for paying the outstanding salaries & wages and payment towards Voluntary Retirement Scheme to be implemented in NPCC. In order to downsize the number of employees, the management is persuading the employees for availing VRS and 104 applications have already been received. It is anticipated that 114 additional applications (of workmen) will be received by the end of March 2003.”

FARAKKA BARRAGE PROJECT

1.111 The Farakka Barrage Project envisages preservation of Calcutta Port against silting by improving the regime and navigability of the Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system by regulation of upland supplies from Ganga to the Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system. The Farakka Barrage Project across the Ganga, Head Regulator Feeder Canal, barrage across the Bhagirathi at Jangipur, bridge across feeder canal, Bagmari system; Regulators at different locations; inlets;

etc. were completed and commissioned in April, 1975. The navigation lock at Farakka was commissioned for inland navigation route of Haldia-Farakka-Allahabad in November, 1987.

1.112 The Farakka Barrage Project was started in 1962 at an estimated cost of Rs.68.59 crore. The Government approved the second revised estimate of Rs.267.45 crore in June 1987. On completion of major works of the project, some residual works remained after 1992. The Expenditure Finance Committee had approved a fresh EFC Memo, amounting to Rs.13.94 crore, to complete the residual works. Besides, the following EFC memos had also been approved during IX Plan period.

- (i) Additional special protection works for Farakka Barrage (Rs 46.36 crore)
- (ii) Additional special protection works for Feeder Canal & Jangipur (Rs 26 crore)
- (iii) Special repair works of the existing assets/structures of Farakka Barrage Project (Rs 18 crore).

1.113 During X five-year plan period, there is outlay of Rs.150 crore for Farakka Barrage Project. Accordingly the project has submitted EFC memos for balance works of above three EFC memos at an estimated cost of Rs.145.43 crore; one EFC memo for procurement of spare gates and stop-logs etc. at an estimated cost of Rs.3.37 crore; and for balance payment of third RCE for an amount of Rs.1.20 crore. EFC memos for Rs.145.43 crore and Rs.3.37 crore have already been approved.

1.114 Accordingly to the Ministry, the following two schemes have also been approved for critical anti-erosion works:-

- i) Protection of Left Afflux Bund of Jangipur Barrage in the vicinity of Moya & Fazilpur village on right bank of the river Ganga at an estimated cost of Rs.10.50 crore.
- ii) Protection of Nayansukh and Beniagram village downstream of Farakka Barrage on right bank of the river Ganga at an estimated cost of Rs.7.00 crore.

1.115 The budgetary allocation under Farakka Barrage Project during the year 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-04 and X Plan Outlay are given as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Scheme/Activity	X Plan Outlay	Actuals 2001-02	B.E. 2002-03	R.E. 2002-03	B.E. 2003-04

		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
Farakka Barrage Project	150.00	16.75	20.34	25.00	22.09	23.00	21.94	25.00	23.98
Anti-erosion Works	17.50	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	12.50	0.00

1.116 The (Plan) Budget Estimates under Farakka Barrage Project for the year 2002-2003 was earmarked at Rs.25.00 crore. However, it has been reduced to Rs.23.00 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. The Committee wanted to know about the reasons for reducing Rs.2.00 crore at the Revised Estimates stage and its adverse impact on the progress of the project. The Ministry in their reply stated:

“Rs.2.00 crore has not been reduced from the allocation of Rs 25.00 crore in Plan head in the Revised Budget. This amount of Rs 2.00 crore has been diverted to “Critical Anti-erosion Works” being executed by the Farakka Barrage Project. As such Rs 2.00 crore has not been surrendered. Rather the booking head of the expenditure has been changed. Further, an amount of Rs 1.00 crore has been provided to Farakka Barrage Project in final requirement raising the provision to Rs 24.00 crore from Rs 23.00 crore provided in RE 2002-03.

There is no adverse impact on the progress for want of budget allocation/provision. The budget provision is good enough to keep pace with expedited progress in FBP to meet the stipulated targets.”

Sardar Sarovar Dam Project

1.117 Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee (SSCAC) was set up in accordance with the directions of the National Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDI) by the erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) under its Resolution of 4 September, 1980 and has started functioning from 1 December, 1980. The Advisory Committee is headed by the Secretary, Union Ministry of Water Resources as its Chairman and has its members from Government of India and the party states. The Committee is having a whole-time Secretary of the rank of Chief Engineer.

1.118 The SSCAC deliberates on the various points concerned with the programme/progress of construction, estimates, claims, etc. during its regular meetings. Till date, 68 meetings of the SSCAC have been held; and the last meeting (68th) was held on 27th June 2002 at New Delhi. Some of the important decisions in the meetings have been related to raising of different blocks of the dam. Presently dam has been raised up to an effective height of EL 95m. Other decisions of SSCAC in recent meetings relate to payment of share cost of project by party states, powers of PSC and that of project authorities to settle contractors, claims, tenders for new items of works in River Bed Power House (RBPH), annual development plan of the project etc. So far 86 meetings of PSC have been held; and the last meeting (86th) was held on 14th November, 2002 at New Delhi. The PSC in its recent meetings have deliberated on issues of revision of rates for different on going contracts, and the progress of implementation of Real Time Data Acquisition system for Narmada River.

1.119 The Committee during evidence enquired about the reasons for delay in completion of Sardar Sarovar Development Project. The Secretary informed the Committee that as per the direction of Supreme Court the construction of project has to be taken up paripassu. Further, the Chairman, Central Water Commission elaborated as under:

“According to the directive of the Supreme Court, we drew the action plan. It was agreed by all the four States and they were to accomplish the rehabilitation within a fixed time so that the height of the dam could be raised. But now there are some problems with the Maharashtra State. We consult the Grievance Redressal Authority and get their clearance before raising the height of the dam. In Maharashtra, the Grievance Redressal Authority is not willing to give this because the rehabilitation is not completed and they are lagging behind. We tried to approach the Government of Maharashtra. Since it is a judicial body, without their clearance it cannot happen. We have got the clearance from the State of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. We have had meetings at the level of the Cabinet Secretary and we also have had meetings at the State level. Now they have to complete the rehabilitation work and shift the people and then only we would be able to go ahead. We have not been able to do it because of the judicial procedure involved.”

PART –II
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

Recommendation Sl.No.1

Inadequate Plan allocation for the Ministry of Water Resources

2.1 The Committee regret to note that against an outlay of Rs.6651.41 crore proposed by the Ministry of Water Resources for the Tenth Plan, Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs.3600 crore only, which works out to be around 60% of the outlay proposed. With this reduced outlay, the average annual plan allocation would be around Rs.720 crore per year. The Committee are constrained to note that for the first year of the Plan i.e. 2002-03 the allocation was Rs.550 crore only and for 2003-04 the allocation was marginally increased to Rs.554 crore, nowhere near the estimated average annual plan outlay of Rs.720 crore worked out, and approved by the Planning Commission for the Tenth Plan. The Committee wonder as to how with the reduced allocation of Rs.3600 crore, 40% less than that then projected by the Ministry, which too have not been proportionately provided by the Planning Commission during the first 2 years of the Plan, the Ministry could be expected to implement various schemes/programmes for development of water resources effectively.

The Committee are perturbed to note that less allocation for the Ministry has resulted in drastic reduction in proposed outlays for Command Area Development Programme and Flood Control sectors. The proposed restructuring of ‘Command Area Development Programme’ integrating water management issues with it, in order to make it more effective, would be adversely affected as the reduced outlays would slow down the progress of activities under the programme. In the Flood Control Sector, the important scheme of critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States, which needs to be urgently executed would be adversely affected.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Planning Commission should review the allocation to the Ministry, especially in regard to the above two sectors and make higher allocation for CAD and Flood Control Sector at the Revised Estimates Stage.

Recommendation Sl.No.2

Schemes not approved by Planning Commission

2.2 The Committee note that 22 new schemes proposed by the Ministry during the Ninth Plan Period were not approved by the Planning Commission, as the number of Plan schemes of the Ministry was already too large and the Planning Commission was not in favour of increasing the number of schemes by introducing too many new schemes. The Planning Commission, therefore, suggested amalgamation of schemes with existing schemes, wherever possible. On going through the reasons furnished by the Ministry for non-approval of each scheme, the Committee find that 17 out of these 22 schemes were dropped or merged with on-going schemes as they were already covered under them and the Ministry were not able to justify the need for new schemes. The Committee are not able to comprehend the need for approaching the Planning Commission with new schemes, when the activities under these schemes could have been undertaken through the existing schemes. They strongly feel that the detailed and careful technical studies were not conducted by the Ministry before placing these schemes to the Planning Commission for clearance.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should in future approach the Planning Commission with technically sound and well formulated schemes for approval after conducting requisite detailed studies so that they are able to convince the Planning Commission about the usefulness of these schemes and provide justification for taking them up as separate schemes.

RECOMMENDATION Sl. No.3

Declaration of `2003` as `Fresh Water Year`

2.3 The Committee are happy to note that India has declared the year 2003 as `Fresh Water Year` in line with United Nations resolution adopted during the 55th Session of General Assembly to focus on creating mass awareness on the importance of fresh water and its management. A budget provision of Rs.12 crore has been made available for 2003-2004 for celebrating `fresh water year`. The Ministry have informed that they have

already prepared a concept paper for the observance of the fresh water year 2003 with the objective of (a). Increase awareness among stake-holders regarding Scarcity value of Fresh Water. (b). Conservation & efficient use of Fresh Water. (c). Preservation of Fresh Water-Quality & its Ecosystem (d). Augmentation of Fresh Water Resources (e). Community partnership for informed decision making. The Committee are of the strong opinion that the Government have initiated a very important programme and hope that the objectives as contained in the concept paper would be achieved within their scheduled time frame. They also expect that the benefits anticipated, of celebrating 'Fresh Water Year' would reach the people of the country at large.

Recommendation Sl. No.4

Inter-linking of Rivers

2.4 The Committee note that as desired by the Supreme Court, the Union Government has constituted a Task Force through a resolution dated December 13, 2002 under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha to expedite the inter-linking of rivers and to draw up a programme for ensuring the implementation of the link project with a reasonable time frame of not more than 10 years. The Ministry have informed that the Task Force has already held one meeting in January, 2003 and they are expected to prepare Action Plan by April 30, 2003 giving the outline of the time schedules for the completion of feasibility studies, detailed project reports and implementation of the project on 31.12.2005, 31.12.2006 and 31.12.2016 respectively. The Committee feel that the inter-linking of rivers project is one of the biggest challenge before the Government, which besides successful execution of various inter-links also requires to address the intricate issues like sharing of waters by States; Rehabilitation and Resettlement of displaced persons etc. The Committee hope that Task Force would address all these issues carefully and tactfully, also the Government would adhere to laid down time schedule and make this dream come true.

Meanwhile, the Committee also recommend that the Government should give top priority to small links which can be easily implemented. The Committee in this connection would eagerly await the outcome of discussion/consensus reached between the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for implementation of Ken-

Betwa Link for which few meeting have already been held and State Governments have shown their keenness to go ahead with this project.

RECOMMENDATION Sl. No.5

Hydrology Project

2.5 The Committee note that the Hydrology project is being implemented with International Development Association (World Bank) assistance under a credit agreement with Government of India. The original validity of the agreement was six years project operation (1995-96 to 2000-01) which was later extended to 31 December 2003 on the request of Ministry. Although the Ministry had hoped to achieve overall physical and financial progress of 97% target by its closing date but, the Committee note that under the training and incremental staffing which form two very important components of the project, the physical achievements made so far are still very low i.e. 65% and 76% respectively.

The Committee therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should take concrete steps to improve the performance in these two components and should make all out efforts to achieve 100% targets under all the components of Hydrology Project upto its closing date i.e. 31st December, 2003.

Recommendation Sl.No.6

Pagladiya Dam Project

2.6 The Committee are unhappy to find the slow progress in Pagladiya Dam Project due to delay in land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) and security related issues. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should work out a time schedule for completion of each activity of the project precisely and strictly monitor them for their timely completion.

Recommendation Sl.No.7

Poor Performance under the scheme Central Water and Power Research Station

2.7 The Committee are unhappy at the poor performance of various schemes under Central Water and Power Research Station of the Ministry of Water Resources during the Ninth Plan. The physical achievements made under the most of the schemes of Central Water and Power Research Station during the Ninth Plan have been much below the laid down targets. For the schemes viz. Staff Colony Phase III, Hydrology Project (Externally aided), Application of Remote Sensing and Modernisation of Earth Science Laboratory targets were fixed respectively at 130, 127, 161 and 67 units but, the achievements have only been 61, 69, 53 and 37. The main reason stated by the Ministry for the shortfall has been procedural problem leading to non-procurement of various items/equipments. The Committee are of the opinion that the problem is not of such a magnitude which could not have been dealt with proper advance planning and management for procurement of the items. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should put in place some effective monitoring mechanism in order to improve the performance under each of the schemes of Central Water and Power Research Station of the Ministry during the current year.

Recommendation Sl.No.8

Command Area Development

2.8 The Committee are extremely unhappy over the drastic shortfall in achievement of physical targets fixed for Warabandi and Reclamation of water logged area under Command Area Development programme during the Ninth Plan. Against physical targets of 3000 and 0.060 million ha. under the above two components, the achievements have only been 1,930 and 0.02 million ha. The Committee are not convinced with the reasons stated by the Ministry that there has been proportionate reduction in the target and achievement by States in accordance with the actual allocation of funds. The Committee find that against an approved outlay of Rs.854.77 crore during Ninth Plan for CAD programme the fund released has been Rs.764.14 crore i.e. around 90% of

approved outlay and reduction was only around 10%. This 10% reduction is not commensurate with the drastic shortfall in the achievement of physical targets for Warabandi and Reclamation of Water logged areas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should review the performance of these two components of the CAD programme and take concrete measures to achieve the targets.

Recommendation Sl.No.9

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

2.9 The Committee are distressed to find the slow progress of completion of projects under AIBP. The Ministry have informed that in all 155 major/medium irrigation projects have received CLA under AIBP since inception of the programme in 1996-97, out of these only 21 major/medium projects have since been completed.

While showing their disappointment at the slow pace of completion of irrigation projects, the Committee in their 34th Report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) had recommended that monitoring of ongoing projects under AIBP should be intensified. The Committee are constrained to find that no effective steps have been taken by the Ministry in this regard. They desire that the Government should take up this issue of incomplete irrigation projects with the State Government at highest level and impress upon them the need for their completion expeditiously.

In this connection, the Committee note that working group of Planning Commission has suggested to the Ministry of Water Resources to carry out a State-wise review of on-going irrigation projects through a committee headed by the Secretary, with Chairman, CWC, Advisor Water Resource in Planning Commission and concerned Secretaries of State Governments as members. The Committee desire that the aforesaid suggestion of Planning Commission should be urgently followed up so that the hurdles in completion of projects could be identified and speedy action taken to overcome them.

Recommendation Sl.No.10

AIBP Fast Track Programme

2.10 The Committee note that during 2001-02, 15 Major/Medium projects in 6 States were included under Fast Track Programme launched by Government in February, 2002 to complete Major and Medium Irrigation projects. The projects under Fast Track Programme are required to be completed in one year(two working seasons). The Committee are constrained to find that only one project has since been completed. The Ministry have informed that remaining 14 projects are likely to be completed during 2003-04. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should strictly monitor the completion of remaining 14 projects in order to ensure their timely completion.

The Committee are further constrained to find that the Ministry have not yet received project proposals from States for their inclusion under fast track programme during 2003-04. They wonder as to how the allocation of funds for various projects under AIBP could be planned unless the proposals are received in time from the States. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with the States at highest level to persuade them to send their proposals for inclusion under fast track programme urgently for timely completion of projects vital for the concerned States.

Recommendation Sl.No.11

Ground Water Recharge

2.11 The Committee are constrained to find that despite their repeated recommendations for early approval of scheme in 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' the scheme is still awaiting clearance from Planning Commission. In view of serious problem of declining ground water table in the country, this delay is totally unacceptable to the Committee. They are of the view that since the awareness of ground water recharge is increasing among people and they are coming forward in a big way, the Planning Commission should not delay the approval of the scheme which will supplement their efforts by implementing a well formulated scheme. The Committee note that on the advice of the Planning Commission, the Ministry has reformulated the scheme several times leading to unnecessary delay in approval

of the scheme. The Ministry have informed that revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' at an estimated cost of Rs.3,000 crore on the funding pattern of 90 :10 between Centre and beneficiaries has been formulated and referred to the Planning Commission on 18.2.2003 for their 'in principle approval'. While expressing happiness over enlarging the scope of the scheme, the Committee strongly recommend that the Planning Commission should expedite the approval of the re-formulated scheme on an urgent basis in the first trimester of the year itself so that it can be implemented during the current year. Accordingly, suitable enhanced allocation should also be proposed in Revised Estimates by the Ministry for its implementation.

Recommendation Sl.No.12

Flood Proofing Programmes

2.12 The Committee note that the Budget Estimates for Flood Proofing Programmes for 2002-2003 was earmarked at Rs.1.50 crore, it was scaled down to Rs.0.01 crore at the Revised Estimates stage, which shows almost a nil performance under the scheme. The Ministry in their reply informed the Committee that the reasons for poor performance of the scheme was due to delay in completion of schemes under the programme by the State Government of Bihar. Out of 100 approved schemes under the programme only 57 schemes have been taken up for implementation by the State Government. The Committee are deeply concerned over the poor performance under the scheme. The Committee feel since Bihar is cronicly flood affected State, there is an urgent need to implement flood proofing programme with full vigour to mitigate the suffering of people in the region. They therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take up the issue at the highest level and persuade Bihar Government to speed up the implementation of all the 100 schemes in order to get its full benefits for the people of the State.

Recommendation Sl.No.13

Desilting of Old Rivers

2.13 The Committee are satisfied to note that the Ministry of Water Resources has paid some attention to the problem of desilting of rivers by appointing a high

level Scientific Committee to study the problems of silting in rivers. Which has since submitted its Report.

The committee has examined the recommendations of the Scientific Committee but, are not fully satisfied with them, and observe the following.

- (1). The Committee consider that the Scientific Committee should have included experts in sedimentology, geology and geography and should also have taken into consideration the views of the farmers in the concerned areas.
- (2). From the Report it appears that the Scientific Committee did not have enough data on the subject and, therefore, the Committee feel that more relevant data should be collected and made available for a deeper study of the problem.
- (3). The Scientific Committee's observations that the desilting of rivers is not an economically viable solution, cannot be accepted because, if silting of rivers in the Indo-Gangetic Plain is not checked at this stage, the rivers will be totally choked. This will lead to water spreading over to agricultural lands from Varanasi to Farakka. Thus the rich agricultural land in the Indo-Gangetic Plain will be flooded with water with the result that one crop every year will be lost.
- (4). The spread of sand on the alluvial soil on both banks of the river will make the land uncultivable. This is what is happening all over the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- (5). The Committee also do not agree that the problem can be solved by desilting at some specific locations such as tidal rivers and confluence points because unless the whole passage of river upto the estuary is cleared, any effort to do it in parts will not help.
- (6). The Scientific Committee should have got some experiments done with small dredgers which would remove silt from riverbeds and put it on either side of river banks so that the riverbed is made deeper and at the same time both the river banks are strengthened with the silt removed from riverbed. In the Himalayan rivers where there is heavy silting, the dredging operations should be a continuous process throughout the year except during the rainy

season so that there is no accumulation of silt in the river. It is claimed that this method would be cheaper than the present method of protecting the banks with boulders and manual operations because the, dredging operation not only clears the riverbed but also simultaneously strengthens both the river banks as a mechanical process.

- (7). Any excess sand which has accumulated over the years could be used for filling the pits in mines specially coal mines in Jharkhand area. Therefore, mining companies should be directed to take away the excess sand to fill up the pits and restore the top soil for proper utilisation of the land as per the provisions of the Mining Act.
- (8). The role of Farakka Barrage in causing siltation of the Ganges and its tributaries by preventing full discharge of the sand needs to be examined. In this context, it would be worthwhile to re-examine the feasibility report which had been prepared when proposal for the construction of the Farakka Barrage was under consideration. It is believed that some of the experts of had anticipated the problem of silting of rivers due to the Barrage. Steps taken for the discharge of full sand along with flood water have not been adequate.

The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Water Resources, before finalising its views on desilting of rivers, should take into consideration the experience of UNDP who funded the project and Bangladesh which had also faced the same problem and conducted feasibility study of desilting of 20 medium and minor rivers. In fact, it would be advisable for the Ministry to hold a scientific seminar on the subject in which not only irrigation engineers but also geologists, hydrologists, geographers and sedimentologists as well as administrators, public men and the farmers who are concerned with the problem and if possible, foreign scientists, having the necessary expertise and experience, should be invited. The deliberations in such a seminar would be very fruitful in dealing with the problem of silting of rivers.

Recommendation Sl. No.14

Sardar Sarovar Dam Project

2.14 The Committee are unhappy at the slow pace of construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam. They find that the dam has been raised upto an effective height of EL.95 m. about 8 months back. Since then there has been no further progress. The Committee were informed during evidence that according to the directive of the Supreme Court, construction of dam and rehabilitation of displaced person have to be taken up pari passu. An action plan drawn up in this regard was agreed by all the four States and they were to accomplish the rehabilitation within a fixed time so that the height of the dam could be raised. The Project has not been completed within stipulated time due to some problems with the Maharashtra State with the result that the work of the dam has come to a halt. The Committee desire that the Ministry should take up the matter with the Maharashtra Government at the highest level to expedite the rehabilitating programme. The Committee also desire that a time schedule should be worked out for undertaking various stages of the dam and make all out efforts to adhere to the time schedule. Besides, the Ministry should impress upon all the concerned States to prepare a plan in advance for rehabilitation of those people who would be affected by the project.

Recommendation Sl. No. 15

Losses due to floods in other than Ganga Basin States

2.15 The Committee find that some states like southern and western states are affected by floods due to small rivers, rivulets and nullahs which come with great intensity especially during rainy season damaging the crops, human settlements and other valuable things. The Committee further, find that there is no central scheme for undertaking flood protection measures in these areas and the States are also not able to take up the scheme due to funds crunch. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should formulate a scheme in this regard and place it before the Planning Commission for early approval.

Recommendation Sl.No.16

Floods due to rivers from Nepal

2.16 The Committee note with serious concern that the rivers Gandak, Bhagmati and Kosi which are flowing from Nepal to India are causing heavy floods in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Every year there is a great loss of life, property and crops due to floods in these rivers. The Committee have been informed that the Government is having continuous dialogue with Nepal on the subject and negotiations are continuing for two important projects, i.e. Pancheshwar Multi-Purpose Project on river Mahakali and Supta Kosi High Dam in Kosi river as a permanent solution to the flood problem.

The Committee are disappointed to find that the though negotiations are going on with the Nepalese Government for the last several years, no concrete progress has been made so far towards implementation of projects. Furthermore, during evidence, the Committee have been informed that Nepalese Government has not agreed for construction of Dam on Gandak river. As regards other projects also, they have not given any clear indication about their progress. The Committee, therefore, desire that as the best efforts of the Government are bearing no fruits, they should consider applying some diplomatic pressure on the Nepalese Government to implement the project urgently. Till the dam is constructed, the Central Government should compensate the affected State Governments for the losses occurred due to floods in these rivers

NEW DELHI;

22 April, 2003

02 Vaisakha, 1925 (Saka)

S.S. PALANIMANICKAM,

Chairman,

Standing Committee on Agriculture